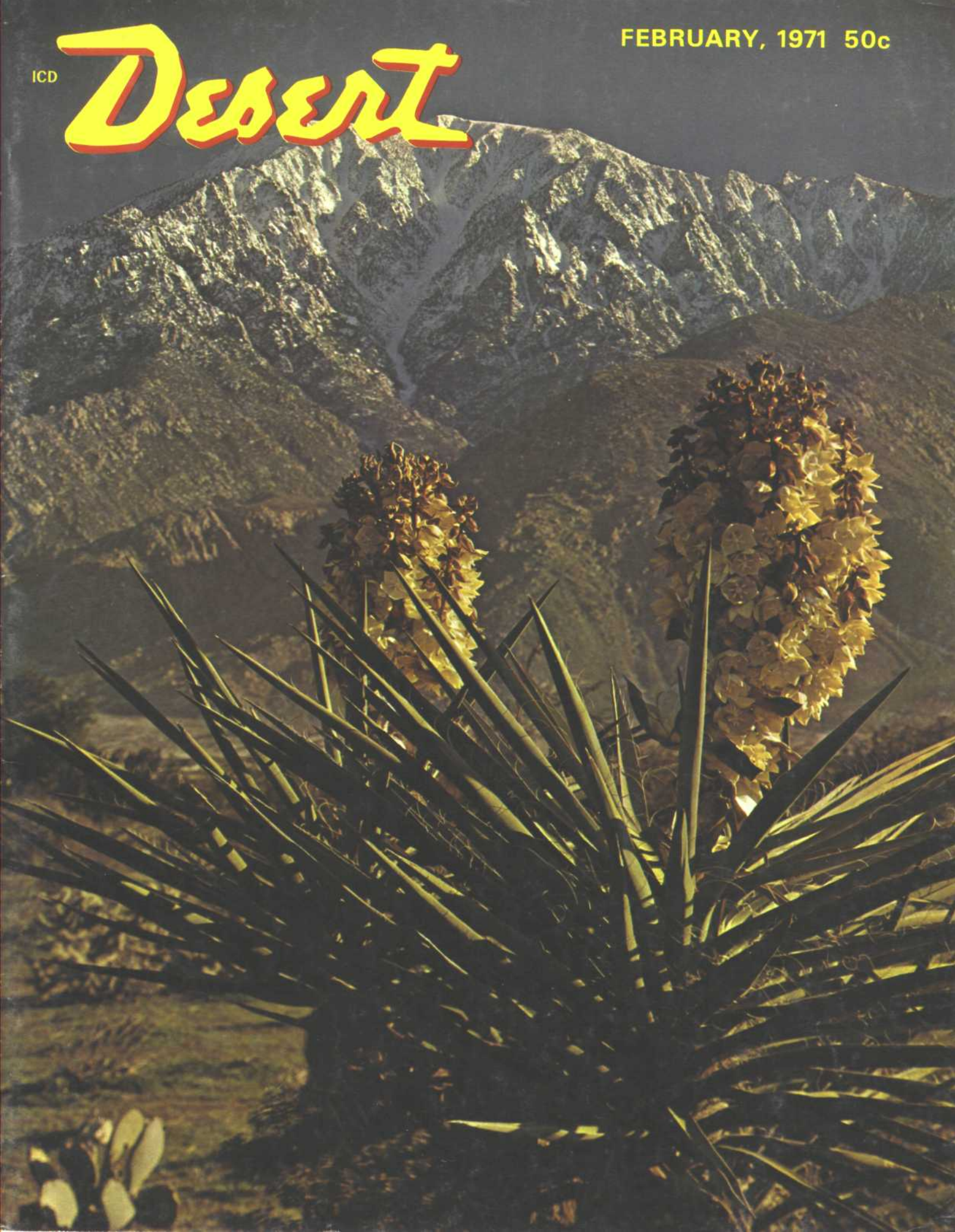


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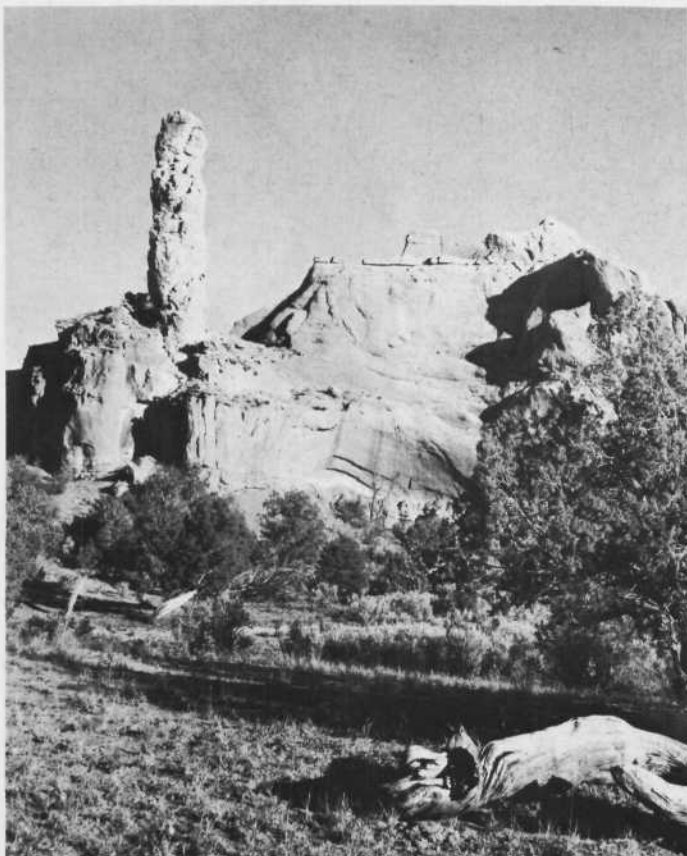
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Volume 34, Number 2 FEBRUARY, 1971

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- TREASURE AT TRAVERTINE ROCK? 10 *by Walter Ford*
HOW TO PAINT THE MOON 16 *by John Hilton*
SERRANO INDIAN TRAIL 18 *by Van P. Wilkinson*
TOURING THE TURTLES 22 *by Mary Frances Strong*
PONCHO HOUSE RUINS 28 *by Walter Ford*
GREASEWOOD, FLOWER OF THE DESERT 30 *by Julia Crow*
DESERT BIGHORNS 32 *by K. L. Boynton*
CONTOURS OF COACHELLA VALLEY 38 *by Jack Pepper*
HISTORICAL MAP 42 *by Merle Graffam*
ROCK ART IN JOSHUA TREE 47 *by Lois Wolf Buist*
DATE FESTIVAL 50 *by Jack Sheppard*

DEPARTMENTS

- A PEEK IN THE PUBLISHER'S POKE 6 *by William Knyvett*
BOOK REVIEWS 8 *by Jack Pepper*
DESERT LIFE 14 *by Hans Baerwald*
WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT 53 *by Joleen A. Robison*
RAMBLING ON ROCKS 54 *by Glenn and Martha Vargas*
CALENDAR OF WESTERN EVENTS 58 *Club Activities*
LETTERS 58 *Reader's Comments*



THE COVER:

Blooming yuccas on the desert floor of Coachella Valley near Palm Desert, California are in sharp contrast to the snow-covered peaks of the San Jacinto Mountains rising 10,000 feet above the Colorado Desert. Photo by David Muench, Santa Barbara, California.

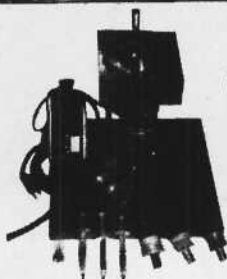
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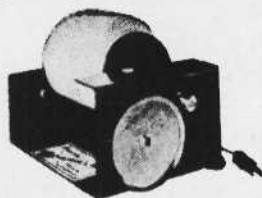
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A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

IN THIS ISSUE we salute the Coachella Valley, the entranceway to varied fun in the desert, with the bulk of the editorial covering this portion of Southern California. The valley itself is guarded by two lofty sentinels, Mt. San Geronio and Mt. San Jacinto. These peaks hold back the prevailing westerly breezes and create a hard-to-beat climate less than two hours driving time from the coastal cities. Interstate 10 traverses the valley and is one of the major east-west routes, with access to the Colorado River basin, Arizona and the general desert southwest area. The valley and its adjacent regions have had an extensive part to play in the history of the West. Its major contributions are capably portrayed on page 42 in a historical map by Merle Graffam.

This winter has been a little damper than usual and should provide us with a blanket of wildflowers. At present the two sentinels are mantled in snow and are a breath-taking sight as they tower 10,000 feet above the desert floor.

Our Field Trip Editor, Mary Frances Strong, really tops the issue off with her article on collecting material in the nearby Turtle Mountains. This little gem contains a map showing more than NINE good areas and can be found on page 22.

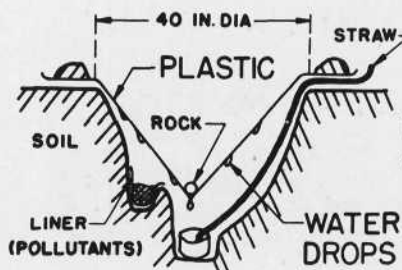
I have had several requests regarding subscriptions for loved ones in the service of our country. Our usual rates apply even though they may be stationed in a foreign country.

Those of you who have 1970 binders will experience a little difficulty in getting the December issue in because of the increased number of pages since August. To avoid this problem occurring in '71 the binders have been increased to a size that will accommodate the larger books.

All of us, in one way or another, feel the pinch in the pocketbook due to the increase in prices, winter layoffs, etc. and Desert is no exception. Regretably, it is forcing us to close on Saturdays until further notice. And our sincere thanks to those of you who came to visit with us on weekends.

William Kuyper

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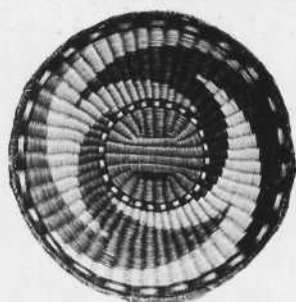
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Book Reviews

by Jack Pepper

CALIFORNIA

By Ray Atkeson and David Muench

Trying to convey the feelings and impressions in black and white words of this photographic masterpiece is as futile as attempting to describe color television to an aborigine.

Two of the West's greatest photographers have combined their art in a volume which creates overwhelming vibrations of the oceans, lakes, deserts, mountains and cities of California. The color photographs are so captive one can almost inhale the smells and touch the subject matter on each page. The historical text by David W. Toll is as moving as the pictorial presentation.

This reviewer does not often use the text from the flyleaf of a book, but even the summary of *California* is beautifully written.

"No region in the world has excited more continuing curiosity, and none has ever drawn so immense a tide of individual migration in the long history of the human race. The literature of California is vast, and from it has emerged—among many complexities—at least one simple truth . . . the truth is that there are many Californias.

"Photographers Ray Atkeson and David Muench have spent years exploring the many Californias, and their discoveries, presented here, are a demonstration of the incredible variety of these Californias which have exerted so powerful a pull at the imaginations of men: glowing, serene, vibrant with color, unutterably inviting.

"Each new wave of immigrants has had to discover California for itself, for it has never stopped changing since Padre Junipero Serra struggled overland to reach it more than two centuries ago. This book, then, is an invitation to discovery."

Color and black and white photographs by the two artists have appeared in the majority of national magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Holiday*, *Life*, etc. *Desert Magazine* is proud that many of our covers during the past two years, including this issue, have featured the works of David Muench.

The 186 pages of *California* contain more than 200 four-color photographs. The 11 x 14 format with heavy slick paper was designed by Robert Reynolds and printed by Graphic Arts Center, Portland, Oregon. You will not want to put *California* in your book shelf after going through it the first time. It is a book which you will savor for years to come and want to share with others—it is *California*. \$25.00.

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By the Editors of *Sunset Books*

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A special 16-page section of Park Facts contains charts and tables that serve as attractions and facilities of the areas. guides to the events, activities, campsites. There is also an Historical Chronology of the individual park developments, plus an inclusive bibliography.

Large, 9 x 11 format, heavy slick paper, 286 pages, \$11.75.

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA GHOST TOWNS

By Stanley W. Paher

Author of *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*, Stanley Paher has extended his research into northern Arizona where he covers 23 ghost towns and camps which flourished during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The book contains directions on how to get to each site and a concise history of the communities. Large historical photographs and artists' sketches enhance the editorial content. Large 11 x 14 format, paperback, 48 pages, \$2.95.

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A TRAMP ACROSS THE CONTINENT by Charles Lummis. First published in 1892, this is a reprint of the personal experiences of the western historian who, in 1884, walked from Ohio to Los Angeles, covering 3507 miles in 143 days. Lummis writes in a matter-of-fact manner of adventures which make fascinating reading and give a keen insight into the people he encountered. This is a classic of Western Americana. Hardcover, 270 pages, \$8.50.

BAJA CALIFORNIA BY ROAD, AIRPLANE AND BOAT by Cliff Cross. Author of a popular travel guide to the mainland of Mexico, Cross has compiled a comprehensive book on Baja California. The new guide is well illustrated with detailed maps of the villages and bays along the 1000-mile route plus travel, history and fishing information. Large format, heavy paperback, 170 pages. \$3.50.

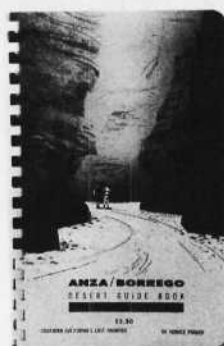
NEVADA GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS by Stanley W. Paher. Covering all of Nevada's 17 counties, Paher has documented 575 mining camps, many of which have been erased from the earth. The book contains the greatest and most complete collection of historic photographs of Nevada ever published. This, coupled with his excellent writing and map, creates a book of lasting value. Large 9x11 format, 700 photographs, hardcover, 492 pages, \$15.00.

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LOST MINES & BURIED TREASURES ALONG THE OLD FRONTIER by John D. Mitchell. The second of Mitchell's books on lost mines which was out-of-print for many years is available again. Many of these appeared in DESERT Magazine years ago and these issues are no longer available. New readers will want to read these. Contains the original map first published with the book and one pinpointing the areas of lost mines. Mitchell's personal research and investigation has gone into the book. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$7.50.

NEVADA'S TURBULENT YESTERDAYS by Don Ashbaugh. The best book about Nevada's ghost towns and the rugged individuals who built them. 346 pages, \$7.95.

LOST MINES OF THE GREAT SOUTHWEST by John D. Mitchell. The first of Mitchell's lost mine books is now available after having been out of print for years. Reproduced from the original copy and containing 54 articles based on accounts from people Mitchell interviewed. He spent his entire adult life investigating reports and legends of lost mines and treasures of the Southwest. Hardcover, illustrated, 175 pages, \$7.50.

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TREASURE AT TRAVERTINE ROCK?

by Walter Ford

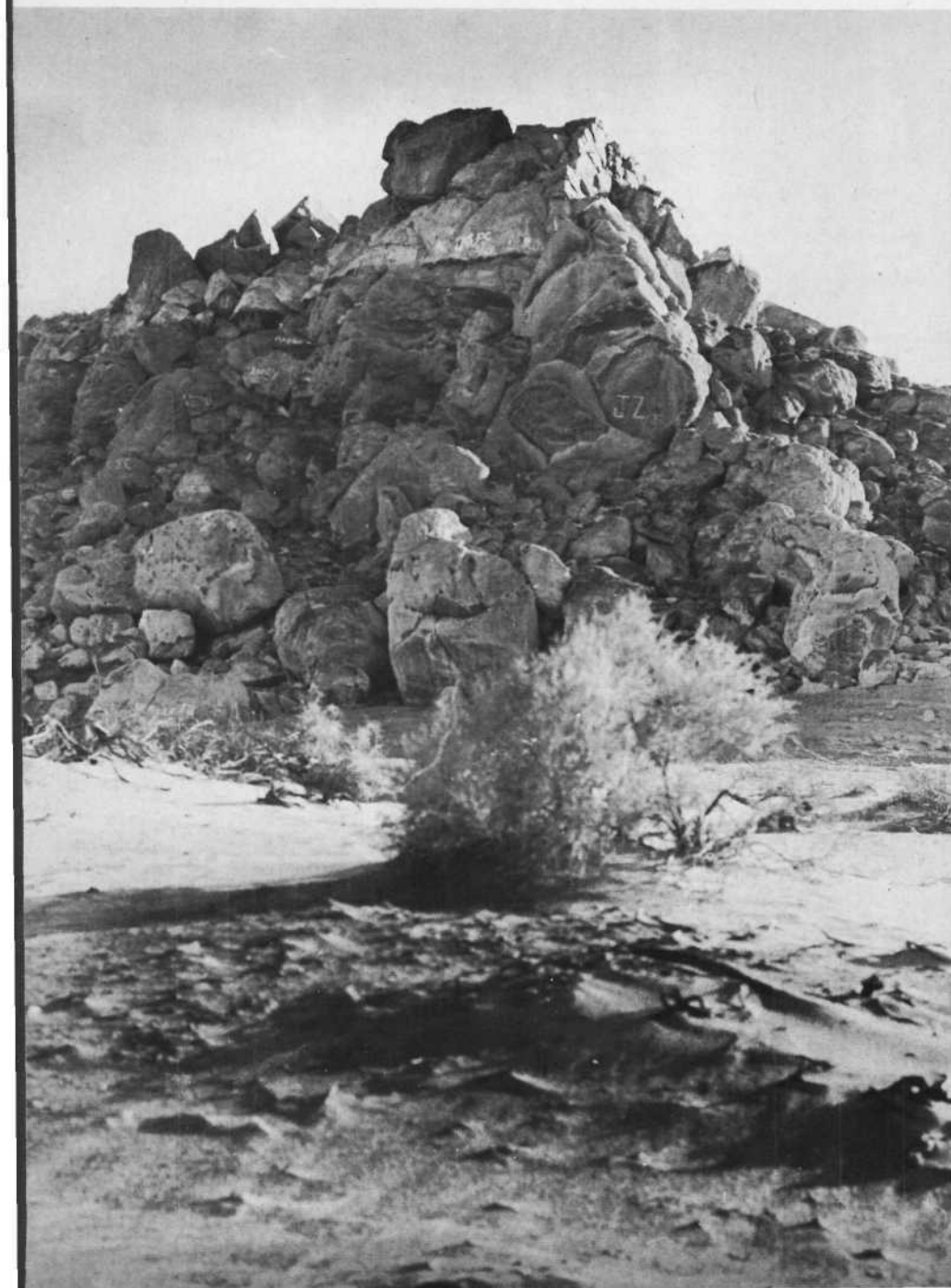
NEAR THE close of a winter day back in the year 1570, a weary band of French and Spanish renegades struggled through sandy wastelands west of the Salton Sea in Southern California, their pack animals loaded with loot stolen from churches in Mexico. Although waterholes had been scarce along the route and food supplies were nearly exhausted, their main concern was hiding the treasure from the hostile Indians.

In the gathering dusk they managed to find a cave to store the plunder, but they paid for the delay with their lives. The Indians overtook and massacred them all.

The foregoing story was told to me by the late Clarence A. Routhe at Ocotillo Wells one day in 1958 when I stopped by to see him. Routhe was a former U.S. District Judge who maintained a home in north San Diego County, but spent his winters at Ocotillo Wells. He was one of the pioneer explorers for oil in the Salton basin, having drilled a well in the San Felipe Hills as early as 1919. He knew the desert thoroughly and I

He knew the desert thoroughly and I always enjoyed visiting him whenever I was out his way. He told me that he read the tale of the looted churches in the Los Angeles Times sometime during 1924, 1925 or 1926, but couldn't recall the exact year. He was anxious to make a search for the legendary treasure, so I agreed to try to locate the original story the next time I went to Los Angeles.

When I visited the *Times* in Los An-

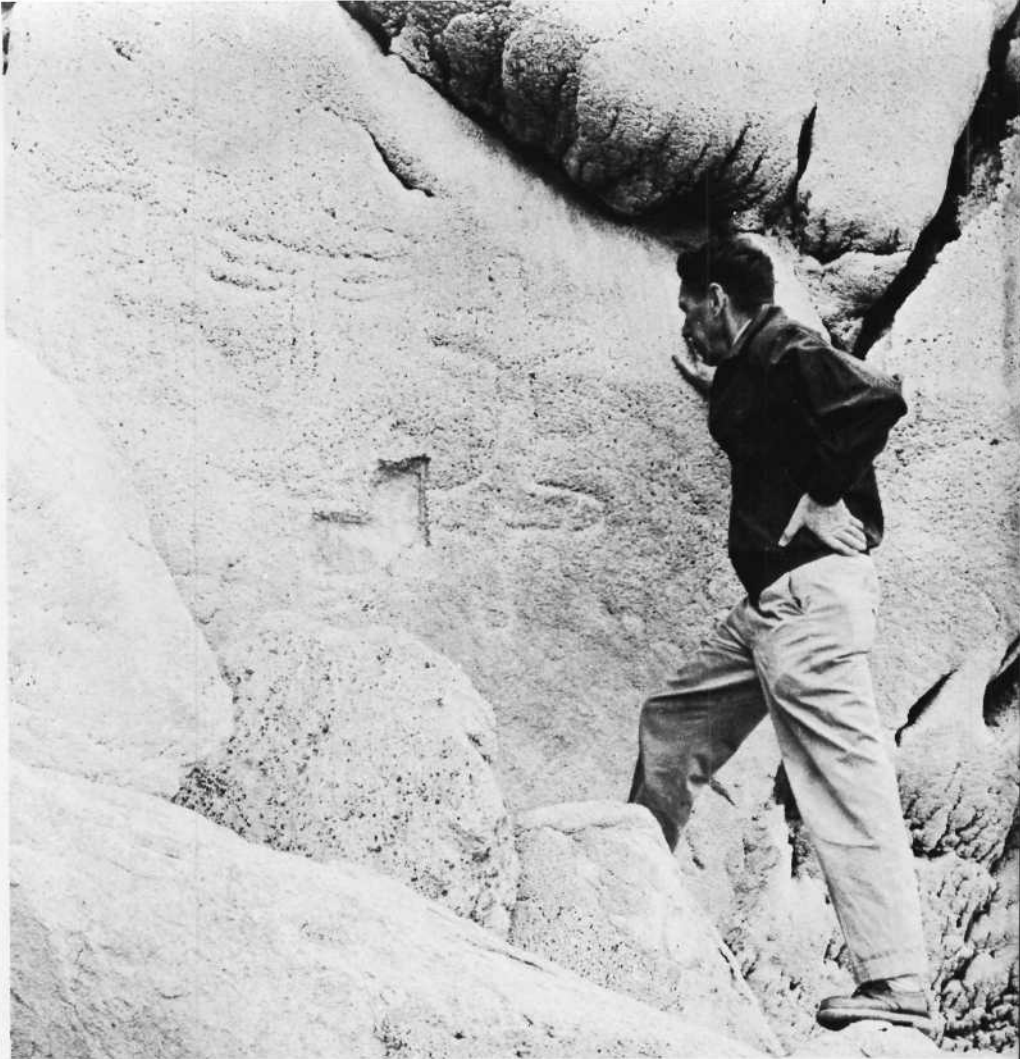


geles, the late Ed Ainsworth offered to help me but even his assistance locating the information proved to be an impossible task for the limited time available. To cover the years mentioned by him would have required scanning over one thousand editions of the *Times*. We compromised by examining only the Sunday editions, but none of them contained the story we were seeking.

Like many other lost treasure legends, the tale about the looted churches contains a few loopholes that are hard to plug. Cortes began his conquest of Mexico in 1519 and although Christianizing the natives started soon after, it was a long, slow process. It appears unlikely that the churches could have accumulated enough wealth by 1570 to make their looting a profitable venture.

Then the matter of French renegades does not fit into the scene. History does not mention any large group of Frenchmen in Mexico until Maximilian's ill-fated attempt to rule the country from 1864 to 1867. Undoubtedly, many stragglers remained behind after Maximilian was executed and his forces were expelled from Mexico, but those events occurred nearly 300 years after the church looting escapade. I mentioned the discrepancies between the legendary accounts of the looting and historical facts to Judge Routhe, but he shrugged it off with, "That just makes the search more interesting."

Historical "facts" find little room in



Inscriptions of the Papal Cross and the Cross of Lorraine (above) were found on Travertine Rock (opposite page). Shoreline of ancient Lake Cabuilla (below) as seen from Highway 86.

the thoughts of many dedicated searchers for lost treasures. That their favorite legends have withstood the test of time is sufficient evidence of their validity. Author Phillip Bailey has some pertinent observations on the conflict between history and legend in his "Golden Mirages." "History should not interfere with legend," he wrote, "it is a grave breach of etiquette to do so. These frail strands have a far stronger hold on the imagination than any dry-as-dust historical fact. If over zealous, meticulous historians whittle through these strands, nothing constructive is accomplished and much harm is done."

Originally, I had not planned to get involved in Judge Routhe's search for the missing gold and silver, but the lure of some carefree days on the desert, plus the million-to-one chance that we might find it was too great to resist. We began our trek at San Felipe Hills with the intention to explore every wash as far north as Travertine Rock, near the Riverside County line. Most of the terrain between

Highway 86 and the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains consist of clay mounds from an ancient sea bed that are too soft for the formation of caves. In Grave Wash we found the only cave worthy of the name. Storm waters had cut a chamber about 12 feet across and 50 feet long in a rocky knoll. Henry Wilson had shown me the cave a few years earlier while on one of his Pegleg gold expeditions. At that time I found a small gold nugget in a niche on the cave wall which caused much speculation around the campfire that night.

Although the cave is back from the wash, with a small opening that is difficult to see, it must have been known to many of the early day prospectors who passed through the area. Henry thought that the gold nugget might have been placed in the niche by one of them or carried from the outside by a packrat and exchanged for a bit of wood or stone. I had not heard the church looting story when Henry showed me the cave, but during my second visit I examined it



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with renewed interest. I hoped to link my single nugget with the loot from the churches, but a thorough search of the cave revealed no additional clues.

We had covered all of the washes as far as Big Wash when Judge Routhe announced he would have to go on a business trip and that we would resume the search when he returned. I did not hear from him until two months later, when he sent me an urgent message to come out as soon as possible and bring a metal detector. I met him at Ocotillo Wells the next day and he directed me to drive to Travertine Rock where he pointed to two figures inscribed on a travertine-covered wall. "There," he said, "are the clues to what we are seeking." The figures were about three inches high, crudely done but accurate enough to depict what they were intended to be, a Papal Cross and The Cross of Lorraine. Judge Routhe was inclined to credit the thieving renegades with making the crosses, but it's difficult to visualize scalawags who robbed churches taking time out to inscribe religious symbols anywhere. Adding to the mystery of the symbols is an "L" shaped cut at the

left of the lower arm of The Cross of Lorraine from which someone carefully removed a section of travertine. The cut extends into a nearly indistinct inscribed figure that offers little clue to what object of value the missing piece of travertine contained.

The material known as "travertine" with which much of Travertine Rock is encrusted are deposits of calcium carbonate from the waters that formed ancient Lake Cahuilla. This lake is considered to have covered the Salton Basin from about 900 to 1500 A.D., when evaporation caused it to disappear. At one time the lake was thought to have been an extension of the Gulf of Lower California, but it was later established that it was formed by a diversion of the Colorado River from its normal course. The high water mark of the lake, well above sea level along the hills south of Travertine Rock, tends to confirm that fact.

Although the forming of Lake Cahuilla is viewed as a one-time occurrence, the rounded outlines of the crosses at Travertine Rock suggest the possibility of their having been submerged in water by a reforming of the lake after they were

continued on page 20

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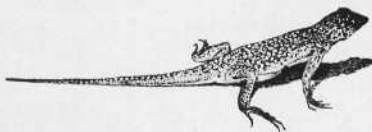
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Desert Life

by Hans Baerwald

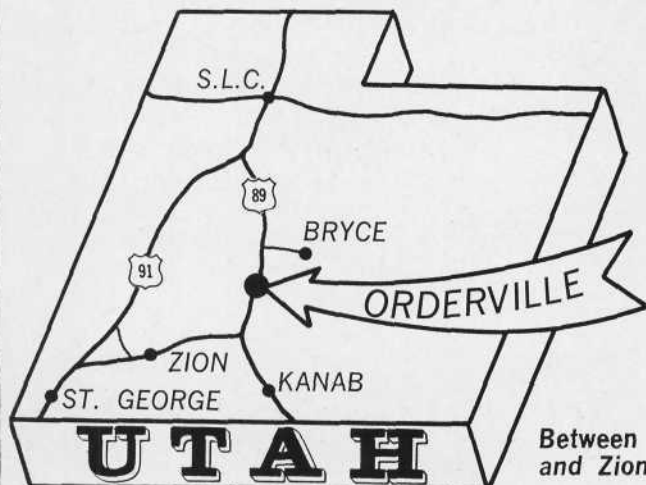
This desert iguana is not certain whether the human hand is offering food as a friendly gesture or whether the food is merely bait so he will be lassoed, captured and eventually die. Even desert life not protected by law should be left in their native habitat and not taken home as pets since they will not long survive. Photograph them, feed them and let them remain free.



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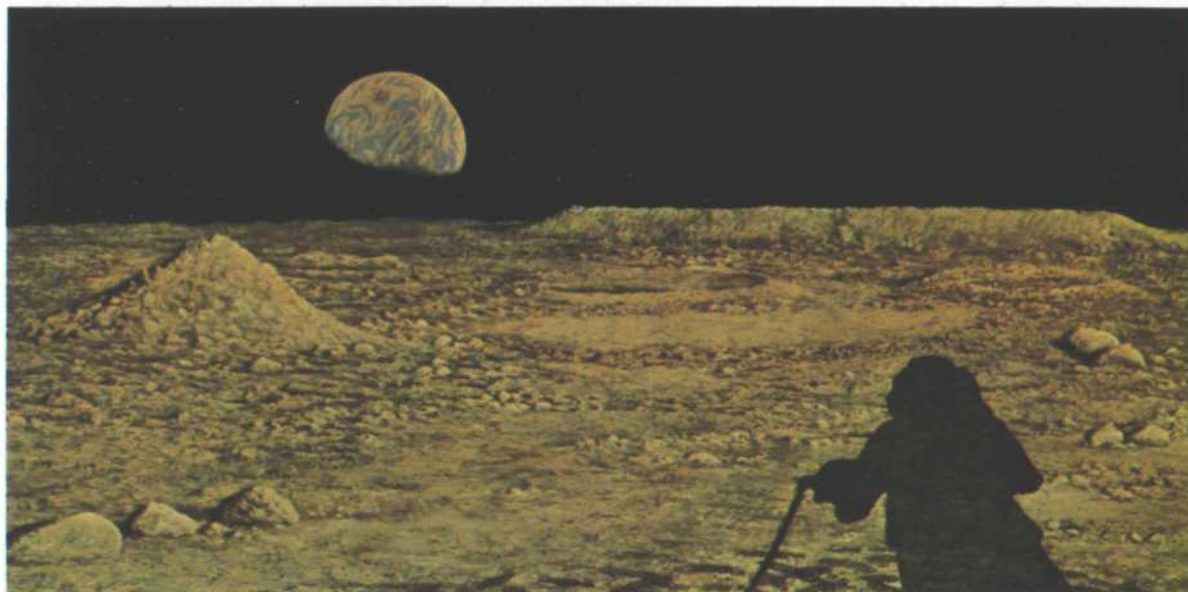
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HOW TO PAINT THE MOON

by John Hilton



"HOW NOT to paint the moon" might have been a better title for this article. I made plenty of mistakes and understandably too. After all, how many people have painted a serious landscape of the moon?

Illustrators of science-fiction stories have drawn on lots of imagination and a smattering of astronomy. Some of the pictures were surprisingly convincing until we began to see the real photos from the Apollo flights. These historic records have changed man's whole thinking about our satellite, and have proved it to be a place of soil and stone and meteor craters instead of a chunk of Swiss cheese with the craters representing the holes.

Most artists and illustrators before Apollo, including myself, thought of the moon as being covered with a fine, powdery dust and sharp, unweathered rocks with a meteorite here and there and a good sprinkling of glassy tektites. But, of course, the real moon students knew better.

They agreed with the dusty surface and some even feared it would not support the weight of our men and our instruments.

They knew better, however, than to expect meteorites as we know them in the form that reach the earth. My friend, Dr. Ronald Oriti of the Griffith Park Planetarium, shares my hobby of collecting meteorites. When I remarked that meteorites would become more commonplace after the manned moon missions he corrected my thinking in a hurry. He explained that on earth, meteorites enter our atmosphere and slow down in their burning descent until some small ones merely bounce off rocky soil or bury a few inches in sod. On the moon, however, there is no atmosphere to slow them down. Their impact, at cosmic speed with the moon's crust, is so violent that an explosion results from the sudden heating and vaporization of both meteorite and moon matter. That is why the craters are mostly quite round like shell holes.

The craters are everywhere. From huge ones many miles across to tiny ones smaller than a man's hand, they all show they are the product of explosion. The fine artist, Chesley Bonestell, who illustrated several serious books on space travel hurried to the observatory shortly after the first picture arrived from the moon and painted a lot of little craters into the picture he had done for them. No one dreamed from telescopic photos how many there were or how small.

Another surprise to most of us was the smooth and sometimes rounded corners on the once jagged rocks lying about on the lunar planes. Without air or water how did they get that way? Some of them undoubtedly rolled and slid at high speeds for miles in the explosion rays that radiate out in sunbursts around the larger craters.

Then there is the bombardment of these stones by others large and small as they explode up and return back to the surface. A lunar frag-

ment as fine as a grain of talcum powder would fall at the same speed as a chunk of lead in this atmosphereless environment. A couple of billion years of this could conceivably round the corners of a rock. Not to mention the 500 degree variation in surface temperatures.

The dust, it turns out, as Dr. Oriti predicted to me, is filled with tiny spheres of once molten matter which has condensed from the countless explosive impacts of meteorites. These add to the glistening appearance of the moon surface and make everything underfoot seem slippery.

Since there is no atmosphere, the shadows are black as the sky and unlike on an earth desert, these shadows do not soften or diffuse as they become more distant. In fact, instead of the ground becoming lighter toward the horizon as our desert, the moon's surface seems to darken as it goes away. As the angle flattens out with distance one sees less and less lighted surface and more and more black shadows and pits.

One of the big mistakes I made was to put about 4000 stars in my black lunar sky. When Dr. Oriti saw it he explained man cannot see the stars from the light side of the moon because of the intense glare. From the lunar module stars would show in abundance when looking away from the sun, but not on the surface. So my sky is in two layers, one with stars (which was much prettier) and a second of flat black which is more accurate.

There are two kinds of truth in a good landscape; natural truth and artistic truth. The important thing is that both the painter and the viewer must sense which is which if the painting is to be successful. I made one deliberate inaccuracy for an artistic reason. When most artists paint the rising moon they represent it several times as large as it really appears in a photo. When I painted the earth rise on the moon I deliberately painted our planet about six times as large as I would have painted the moon in an earth scene.

I also painted man's shadow more transparent than the photos showed.

On earth, when I take color photos, I find that very transparent shadows come out opaque. What I wanted here was not a copy of a photo or a composite of several but a work of art which says what I feel about this momentous event in space history. I wanted to show the ephemeral nature of this shadow which represents the short sojourn of what must be the first moving shadow on the moon. An opaque one looked too permanent.

JOHN HILTON

Internationally known for his paintings of the desert and Hawaii, John Hilton has been exploring the West and Baja California for 35 years and, if possible, he would extend his explorations to the moon.

Since that is not possible, he used colored slides taken by the astronauts as the basis for his moon painting. In this article he describes how he painted the moon—and the honest mistakes he made as an earthling artist.

Hilton is not satisfied with being one of the world's outstanding desert painters. He also is a designer of jewelry (his first profession), an accomplished guitarist, raconteur, plant scientist and historian. With his wife, Barbara, he spends his winters at his home in Twentynine Palms, California and summers in Hawaii.

The most glaring mistake was when I painted the crater, which is against the sky on the right, so that the viewer could see into it. This is what happens when a man works from several photos, especially when he has my system of looking for hours at a picture (or a real scene for that matter) and then turns his back on the whole thing and paints from memory. I had to paint a side view of this crater, not a down view.

The most startling thing of all about the appearance of the moon seems to me to be the exaggerated perspective due to the curve of the lunar surface. A good golfer on the moon could probably drive a ball right over the horizon if he were on a level area. A six foot man standing on a flat lunar plane would only be

able to see approximately 460 yards because of the curvature of the moon.

Unless the viewer is near some large mountains, lunar landscapes are apt to turn rather flat and restricted. All of our lives our eyes and minds have unconsciously measured sizes and distances by the apparent distance to the horizon. On the moon this automatic measuring ability would make a person think a thing is a mile away which in reality is only a few hundred feet distant. Close-up things such as rocks, astronauts and their hardware are inclined to appear much larger than they are against this shrunken horizon.

This picture was made from my memory of moon-walk videotapes and NASA photos furnished by Dr. George Lindsay, Director of the California Academy of Sciences of San Francisco, and Dr. Ronald Oriti of the Griffith Park Planetarium in Los Angeles. It is painted with a two inch painting knife with a trowel shaped blade. The colors are Winsor-Newton blue-black, burnt umber, golden ochre, and titanium white. I used fifty percent Dorlands Medium Wax (Artists) with the paint and no other medium or thinner. It is painted on a 24 x 48 inch piece of 3/16ths masonite which was factory sized and smooth on both sides.

I think I shall paint other moon pictures from time to time as new material and data arrives but not to the exclusion of my desert and Hawaiian subjects. This picture was my most moving experience in a long career of painting. Somehow, the research and the planning, and finally the act of painting man's first shadow on the moon caused me to relate with and share in my small way the thrill and the glory of this greatest of all adventures.

We who helped each in his tiny way to put these men on the moon must always be proud and should look back from this absolute desert to the rhythmic cloud patterns over the blue seas and brown continents of our earth and realize how precious and how fragile and easily destroyed this thin film of life upon our unique planet really is.

SERRANO OLD INDIAN TRAIL

FOR AN easy afternoon hike, the old Serrano Indian Trail from Pipes Canyon to Little Morongo Creek in the Pioneertown area of Southern California's Riverside County offers unspoiled challenges to naturalist, prospector and historian.

The trail originally was a regular supply route for Indians from the mountains around Big Bear exchanging goods with their lowland neighbors. Later came the Spaniards looking for gold and a route through California and, finally, the *gringos* (English-speaking white man).

Today it is used only by cattle and a few hikers. The southern access to the trail through Little Morongo Creek is private land and closed, but the most significant area to explore is the higher northern entrance from Pipes Canyon, which is open to the public.

By car, take the Pioneertown Road out of Yucca Valley through Pioneertown some two miles to the Pipes Road turnoff. Approximately two and one-half miles off the pavement, the hard-packed dirt road goes by the remains of Pipes Ranch and a curious fort-like stone structure at the mouth of the canyon. For the next mile, the road dips and twists on the rocky canyon floor where slow driving will save your tires. Scrub willows flank the road in this area. It is in this grove, one-half mile past the stone ruins, the canyon makes a great northward (right) turn. Here you are at the northern end of the Serrano Indian Trail.

Leading south from Pipes Road is a narrow V-arroyo partly obscured by shade trees, branching upward to 25 feet. It is through this small tributary canyon the Serrano Indian Trail winds. The initial one-half mile climbs through cool foliage; the trail is lined with stones and trampled flat into the hills by ranging cattle.

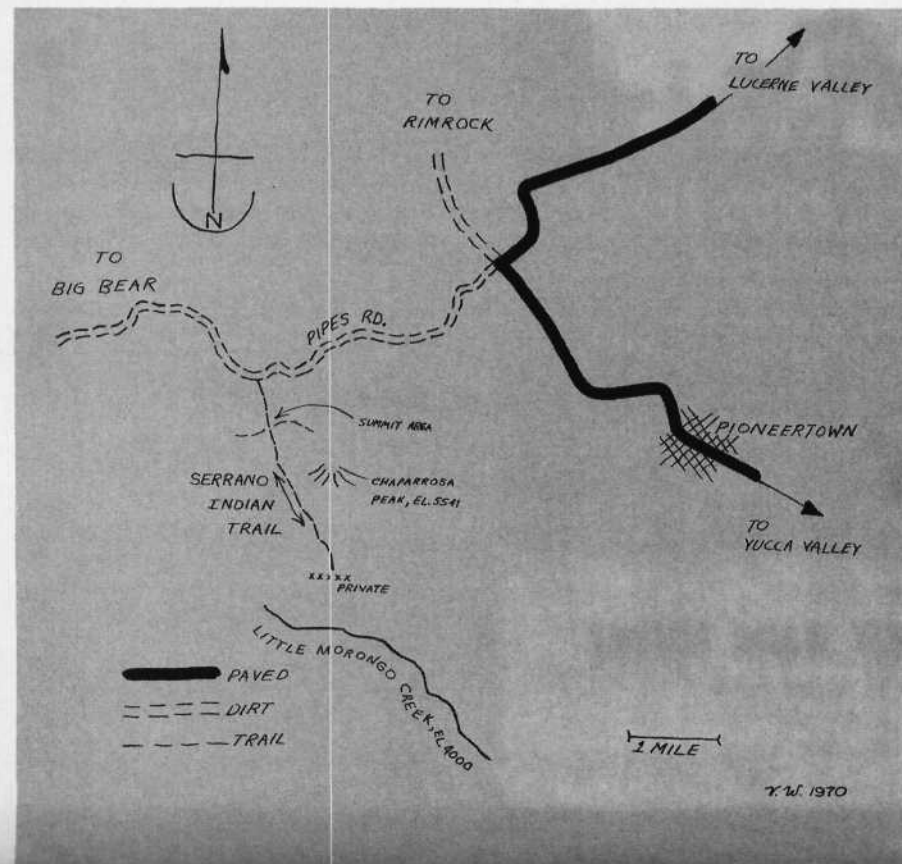
In 20 minutes of easy hiking you are at the summit of the Serrano Indian Trail, marked in a wide clearing with piles of rocks and a wooden stake. For all purposes, practical and inspirational, this is the area to explore: the flat highlands running east by Chaparrosa Peak and the Sawtooths, and west toward the rugged,

by Van P. Wilkinson





Typical stretch of the Serrano Indian Trail (above) leading toward Little Morongo Creek. Northern entrance (opposite page) from Pipes Road.



pine-blanketed Little Morongo badlands.

Picnickers and campers will find the summit a natural stopping place to enjoy the view; the Little San Bernardino Mountains are to the south, the San Geronio Wild Area to the west, Bowden Flat to the east, and the Old Woman Springs area to the north.

Lava slag, quartz, streaked with color, and granite outcroppings are abundant here. Rocks, heaped into loose clusters, suggest weathered claims or ancient fire spots. There are numerous sheltered niches where Indians may have camped or stored goods in the days when Morongo Valley was a trading center for tribes like the Vanyume and Southern Paiute (Chemehuevi).

As the trail begins its long descent to Little Morongo Creek, the vegetation changes and the cooling shade trees on the northern exposure give way to manzanita and stubby pinyon pines on the southern side. Piled stones mark the route; losing the trail would be difficult.

About one and one-quarter miles down the wash from the summit toward Little Morongo Creek there is a dilapidated wire fence. It is at this point the Pierce Ranch cattlemen restrict further travel. There is, however, nothing noteworthy beyond.

Perhaps the most singularly important aspect of this Serrano Indian Trail is its possible role in the pursuit of Willie-Boy, the well-known Paiute Indian youth accused of double murders in 1909. Willie-Boy fled from Whitewater on September 27, 1909, to a storehouse in Pipes Canyon on September 29, 1909. He was tracked through Morongo Valley, and Sheriff Charlie Reche, along with his scout, Toutain, concentrated their efforts along the southeast canyon range of Morongo into the Little San Bernardino, having no luck until others found evidence of Willie-Boy's raid on the Pipes Canyon storehouse.

The theory I hold to, be it folly or not, is that Willie-Boy and his hostage, Lolita, took the shortest distance between two points by crossing Morongo Valley, heading north up Little Morongo Creek, and climbing the Serrano Indian Trail to Pipes Canyon.

Who can say for sure? After you have spent a rewarding afternoon scouting the Serrano Indian Trail, you may have an answer.

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TRAVERTINE TREASURE

continued from page 12

made. I recall hearing a Cahuilla legend one time that told of how one of their gods had ordered a lake refilled, presumably Lake Cahuilla, after it had been emptied by misdeeds of one of the tribe. However, since the story had a supernatural connotation, it may have had no connection with any factual event. Weathering has been mentioned as a possible cause of the rounded outlines, but the figures are protected on all sides except from the east and weather data from the area indicates that the wind seldom comes from that direction.

The metal detector we had with us was a surplus army type that had been altered to increase its sensitivity. I worked around the structure and got the usual indications from bottle caps and cans. I was moving the search coil across a huge slab when suddenly its meter pointer swung over to indicate a large amount of metal within the search coil's field. "There it is," my companion shouted, "it looks like we've found it!" When our elation had subsided enough to permit rational thinking, we tried to think of ways to determine what lay behind the stone walls. The area was too far up to contain the usual collection of cans. It was pleasant to think of buried treasure, but a realistic appraisal suggested that it could be trappings hidden by one of the early-day travelers through the region.

First noted by Blake's railroad survey party in 1853, Travertine Rock has long been a landmark for early explorers and today is a favorite camping spot for dune buggy enthusiasts. It is located on State Highway 86 just south of the Riverside-Imperial County line.

Although open to the public, it is on private property. Unfortunately, vandals and litterbugs have desecrated the area and if this wanton destruction continues it will be closed to the public. IT IS PATROLLED AND VANDALS ARE LIABLE TO ARREST AND HEAVY FINES.

Does Travertine Rock hold within its walls the loot of the renegades or merely trappings hidden by early-day travelers? Rising over the desert like an Egyptian sphinx, it will probably keep its secret for ages to come.

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TOURING TURTLES

TIME, AND the forces of erosion have exposed and sculptured the backbone of California's Turtle Mountains until they resemble a medieval fortress rising from a vast sea of alluvium. They are, without doubt, one of the Mojave Desert's most photogenic mountain ranges.

However, beauty is not all the Turtles have to offer. Within their confines lie a variety of locales where the gem collector can "fill his poke" with good cutting material. Whether you pre-

fer easy-to-reach areas or find the remote gem fields more to your liking — the Turtles have them. The choice is up to you. Fire up your car, camper, 4WD, trail bikes or old hiking boots and let's "Tour the Turtles!"

Twenty miles south of Needles (1.5 miles south of the Lake Havasu turnoff and 26 miles north of Vidal Junction), the Turtle Mountain Road leaves Highway 95. It gently descends to Chemehuevi Wash, then gradually climbs the broad alluvial fan into Turtle Basin. Here in the heart land of the range, high, steep-



From the Essex Road, the jagged volcanics (above) of the Turtle Mountains are an array of columns and spires. Palo verde and ironwood trees line the washes. Jeep road (left) as seen from top of Perlite Hill. Area is covered with chalcedony roses.



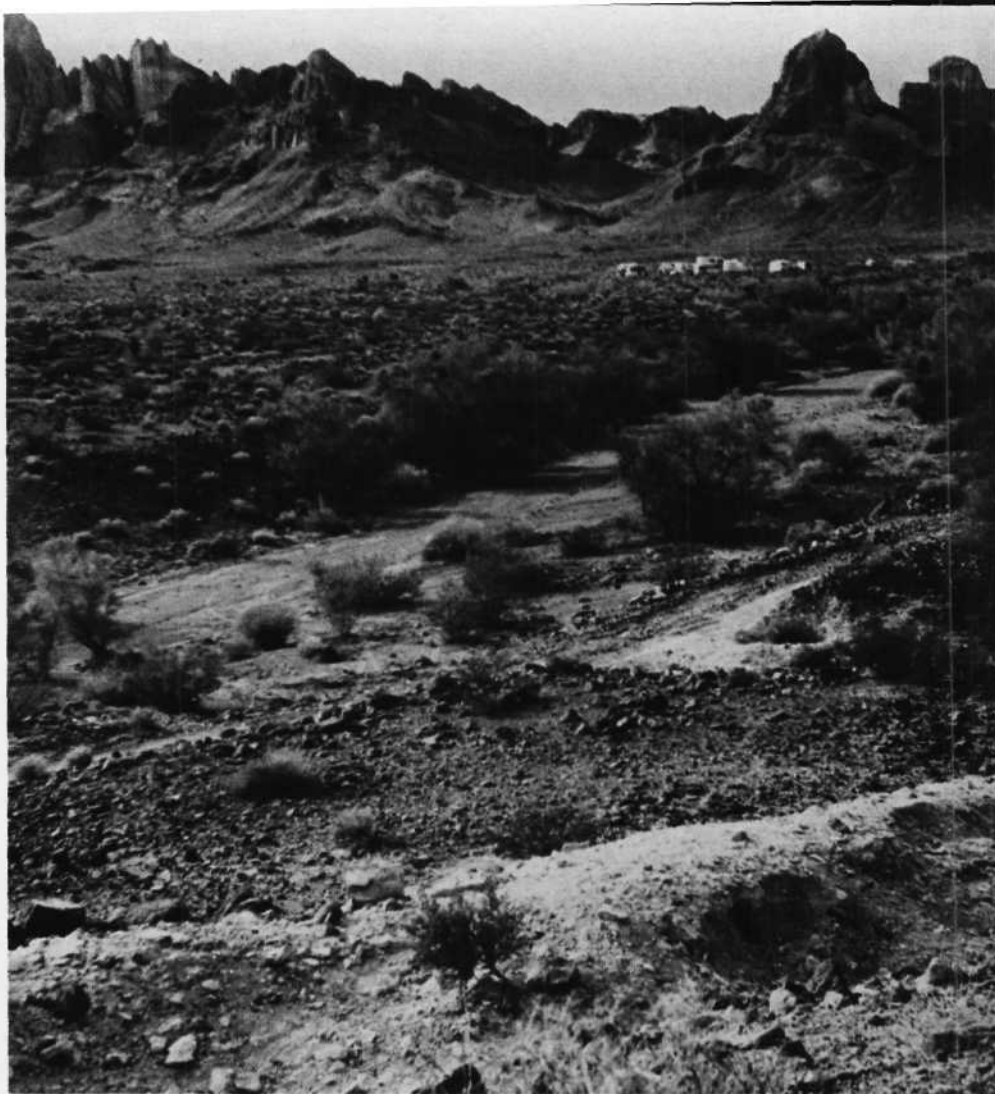
THE

by Mary Frances Strong

Photos by
Jerry Strong



Turtle Mountains (top right) as seen from entrance to Turtle Basin. Peak on extreme right is Hat Mountain, with Mohawk Peak to its left, mark good collecting areas. Palomar Gem Club is at Camp Site 2 and foreground is Area A agate diggings. (See map on page 27).



sided, dike-like ridges rise skyward—their jagged forms creating a spectacular array of spires, needles and columns. Dominating the scene is conical-shaped Mohawk Peak and the derby-like landmark known as Hat Mountain.

The Turtles are a rather narrow range interspersed with several elongated basins. Huge deposits of volcanic ash are found on the mountain flanks and sizeable beds of perlite occur in several places. In the basins, the age-old granite batholith outcrops and has eroded into fantastic shapes.

Exposed throughout the range are the pages of its geologic history. It is a story of slow uplift, followed by considerable vulcanism. Quite possibly, during the late Tertiary Period, the vulcanism brought tremendous intrusions of silica. There is evidence for this because of the presence of extensive deposits of chalcedony, agate and jasper to be found throughout the entire area.

Camping sites are a matter of personal choice in Turtle Basin. If you are towing a trailer, the long bench above the wash near Area "A" is excellent. It is centrally located and affords easy access to all of the collecting areas. Trailers can be

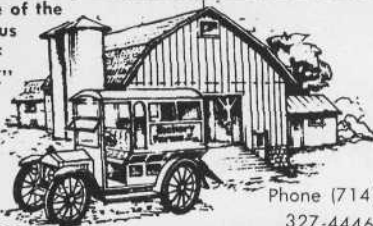
taken to the campsite marked #2; though there is one short, rather rough stretch. This campsite is often used by club groups.

Area "A" is a deposit of vein agate alongside the road. It takes hardrock mining to obtain this material. Considerable diggings has occurred along the vein and, at present, the excavation should be cleaned out and widened.

Turning south on the Turtle Basin road, a deep wash is crossed. In .3 of a mile, a side road leads east to Area "B." Pink, lavender and white chalcedony roses will be found along with some colorful agate and jasper. Another half-mile south is Area "C." Look for a coarsely-grained bacon agate, red and yellow jasper and black agate. On the broad desert pavement, across the wash (Area "D"), chalcedony roses will be found. Tiny, smooth buttons, perfect rosettes, clusters and odd-shaped masses occur along with opalite, black agate and sardonyx.

There has been considerable collecting in this general area. However, good material is still to be found, if a little extra leg work is used.

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The "Lost Arch Inn" of Turtle Basin is the former home of Charley Brown and Jesse Craik, well known desert prospectors who mined the Turtles for many years.

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Continuing south, an old mill site will be seen; and, as the road curves east the Lost Arch Inn looms into view. The "Inn", which has appeared on many old road maps, is only a couple of wooden cabins. It was the home of Charley Brown, an old-time desert prospector, who came to the Turtles in 1922 and lived there until his death in 1948. Charley knew every nook and cranny of the Turtles, as well as their many gem fields. His interest was only in gold and silver and he worked a mine in the Turtles with his partner, Jesse Craik. How well I recall sitting around the campfire and listening spellbound to their stories about the Turtles. It was here I first heard of the deposit of chalcidony on Jesse Craik's perlite claim. "Young lady, if you want roses, you will find thousands of them eroding out of the hillside. Help yourself," Jesse advised me. I did and, as Jesse said—there were thousands!

Over twenty years had passed when in November, 1970 I returned to the Turtles to show Jerry, my husband, this extremely interesting deposit. My first trip had been made in a newly-acquired, surplus military jeep. This time, Jerry and I used our Honda trail bikes.

We dropped into the wash .7 of a mile south of the Lost Arch Inn (Yes, Charley's old cabins are still intact I am happy to report) and followed the wash past Carson Well then, shortly, took a road branching off to the left. The trail bikes rapidly brought us over rocky hills and sandy washes for a distance of 2.6 miles. Chalcedony roses will be found all along the road, on both sides, the last one and one-half miles of the route. At this point a branch road leads off to the south. At its end more chalcedony roses occur. Someone has erected a sign at the road junction and given names to the canyons and flats. "Chalcedony Country" would be a more fitting name as the whole area seems to be sprinkled with roses.

The last mile of road was very rough and the trail bikes had a rugged workout as we climbed Chalcedony Hill. Thundershowers had raced down the old ruts, scoured out holes and scattered assorted rocks along the road. The trail bikes bucked like broncos but we made it without any problems.

Much to my delight, Jesse Craik's words were still true—there are thousands of roses on the hillside. You can collect a variety of sizes and forms—perfect roses, chalcedony covered with sparkling drusy quartz crystals, bowl-shaped clusters which are quite unusual. You will find the chalcedony roses in situ, while vast numbers are in float below the main outcrop. I found a dandy one on matrix which makes a "different" type of ash tray!

Now—let's get back to our tour by returning three and one-half miles to the road Y south of Carson Well. Continuing in a southerly direction our route reaches a gravelly wash and, if there have been heavy thundershowers,

it will seem to end here. Bear right (4WD or trail bikes only) and follow the wash, winding through the canyon to its end at Coffin Spring. On the southwest slopes perlite is exposed and in it are several veins of thin chalcedony plates covered with sparkling drusy quartz crystals. They are quite attractive and some of them may be used "a la natural" in jewelry.

On the ridge to the west we found two beautiful specimens of vein jasp-agate. One was three inches thick and weighed about four pounds. It was finely pattern-

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ed in brown, yellow, white and orange colors. The smaller specimen was an inch thick and eight inches square. It was banded in layers of salmon, white and brown agate with a top coating of clear, botryoidal chalcedony. Several small pieces of this material were also noted. We didn't hike over the ridge and later were told (by Cy Bradshaw, who holds grazing leases on the area) that a vein of jasp-agate occurs there. Perhaps you will find it!

Two roads lead to Area "L." Both are shown on the map. The easiest route is the one leading down from the north. The route from Turtle Basin road must negotiate two fairly steep washes. The northern approach does not.

It might be well to remind you this is flash flood country. Heavy storms send large amounts of water down the washes and the conditions of roads can change from good to bad or even be erased in a single storm.

Area "L" lies at the base of Mohawk Peak and the ever-present chalcedony roses are on the slopes and desert pavements. At the end of the road a butte rises to the west. Red, brown and black moss agate will be found on its slopes. Look carefully, as this material is covered with a heavy desert varnish.

From this area, an old Indian trail leads up the slopes to Mohawk Spring. It is about a mile hike and should be of interest to those who like to stretch their legs a bit.

Leaving the basin, our Tour of the Turtles leads out the Essex road for two miles. Turning south, Mine Shack Road soon skirts an old cabin and mining claim. Look them over but please respect all private property. In a short distance dirt tracks will be seen leading westerly

to Agate Hill (Area "F"). The hill and slopes are covered with eroded material, including small nodules and geodes. Though most of the specimens are not of large size, some beautiful picture, moss, dendritic, fortification and sagenitic agate are to be found in a wide variety of colors.

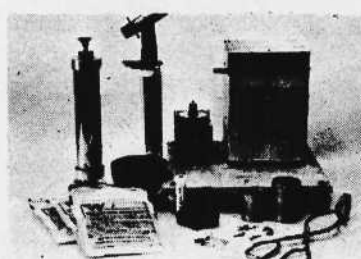
Our route now leads to a jeep trail along the western side of the Turtles. Traveling southeasterly through Granite Basin, the road rounds the hills, drops into Indian Wash and promptly deteriorates. Negotiation of the one-quarter mile stretch through the wash by other than 4WD or trail bikes is dependent upon the whims of summer cloudbursts. At times, pickups with 4-speed transmission can traverse the sandy wash—most of the time they cannot.

A mile from the wash, the road runs through several small, grey hillocks where thin chalcedony clusters—covered with sparkling drusy quartz—are eroding from seams. The surface material will be limited but it is constantly being replenished through erosion. These are exceptionally fine specimens and make attractive jewelry in their natural form.

Continuing up the alluvial fan, the road passes a cabin, skirts a ravine and then drops into Lava Wash at the base of a dark volcanic hill. In the steep talus slopes are fine specimens of golden-yellow, red brown and white jasp-agate.

The last leg of our Tour is to the western edge of the Turtles. Return to the Essex road and continue to the summit (1.2 miles). The road now drops rapidly down the slopes. In just a half-mile a large, rounded quartz knob stands out in bold relief and acts as a landmark for the two remaining collecting areas. A tenth of a mile beyond it, Mill Site Wash

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crosses the road. Park here and follow the wash for a quarter-mile to Chalcedony Hill. The area ("J") is covered with white roses from button size to large ones two inches thick and weighing a couple of pounds. Cutting them at an angle will give a frost or plume pattern which make into attractive cabochons.

Just over a half-mile from Mill Site Wash, a road leads off to the left and climbs a small hill to the bacon agate deposit (Area "K"). The name is apropos, as it does resemble slabs of bacon. The color and pattern are good and it

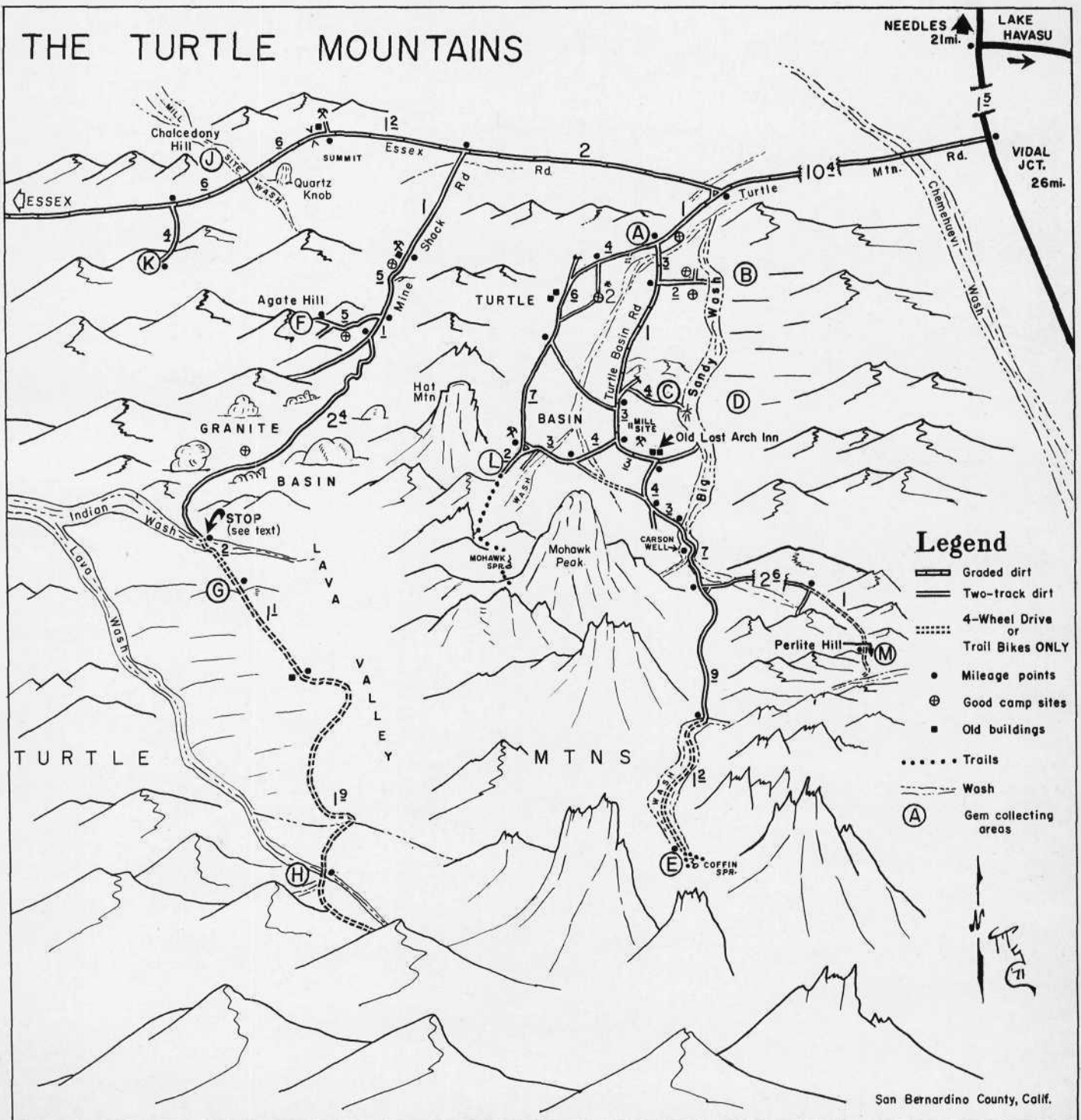
polishes well. This is vein material and the diggings cover a considerable area.

Touring the Turtles cannot be done successfully, at least collecting-wise, in just a weekend. There has been collecting here for three decades; yet though material is plentiful, it does take time to obtain the very best quality.

The Turtle Mountains afford recreational opportunity to the outdoor enthusiast who seeks adventurous back-country routes for his trail bike, four-wheel-drive or desert buggy. The morning and afternoon hours find the scraggy peaks and

canyons bathed in sun and shadow to delight the dedicated camera buff. The desert pavements make good campsites and the tree-lined washes provide deadwood for a cheerful campfire in a setting of limitless grandeur.

"Tourin' the Turtles" will acquaint the traveler with a quiet, peaceful desert oasis where thoughts may be reassembled away from the troubled world. Tense nerves will relax and woes be forgotten as the soul drinks in the sweet beauty sculptured by the master artist—Old Mother Nature. □



PONCHO HOUSE RUINS

by Walter Ford

FROM FOUR CORNERS the San Juan River curves northwest toward Bluff, then swings southeast to form a semi-circle before it enters the Goosenecks near Mexican Hat. In the vast stretch of lonely land between the river and the Utah-Arizona border lies Poncho House, probably one of the most inaccessible and least known of all of Utah's ancient Indian ruins.

There are no established trails to Poncho House and today's road maps place it miles from its true location. Yet, in spite of those handicaps vandals have managed to reach the ruins. Increasing damage to its structures have caused Na-

vajo officials to limit visitors to Poncho House to those with permits or accompanied with a guide.

While the main purpose of the regulation is to reduce vandalism, it serves also to protect the "do it yourself" guide who otherwise might venture into the region. It's a wild, arid country where a wrong choice of a direction could lead to serious trouble, and where four-wheel-drive is indispensable.

A few years ago I tried to reach Poncho House by way of Mexican Water in northern Arizona. My attempt was unsuccessful. After spending most of a day weaving in and out of washes and

dodging buttes, I was convinced my Navajo guide knew less about the location of Poncho House than I did. I took him back to the trading post and put the trip aside for another day.

Last summer while visiting in Bluff, Utah, I learned Gene Foushee, who with his wife, Mary, operates Recapture Lodge, knew the way to Poncho House. In addition he owned a husky four-wheel-drive station wagon and was approved by Navajo officials as a guide.

Gene's route to Poncho House led eastward about 20 miles to the settlement of Montezuma Creek, crossed the San Juan River, then proceeded southwest to Nokaito Bench in which Poncho House is located. A few miles out of Montezuma Creek we passed through a maze of grotesque wind-formed stone figures in which a color photography fan would have a field day. If you close your eyes and let your imagination conjure up the wildest form it can produce, it will probably be somewhere within your range of vision when you reopen them.

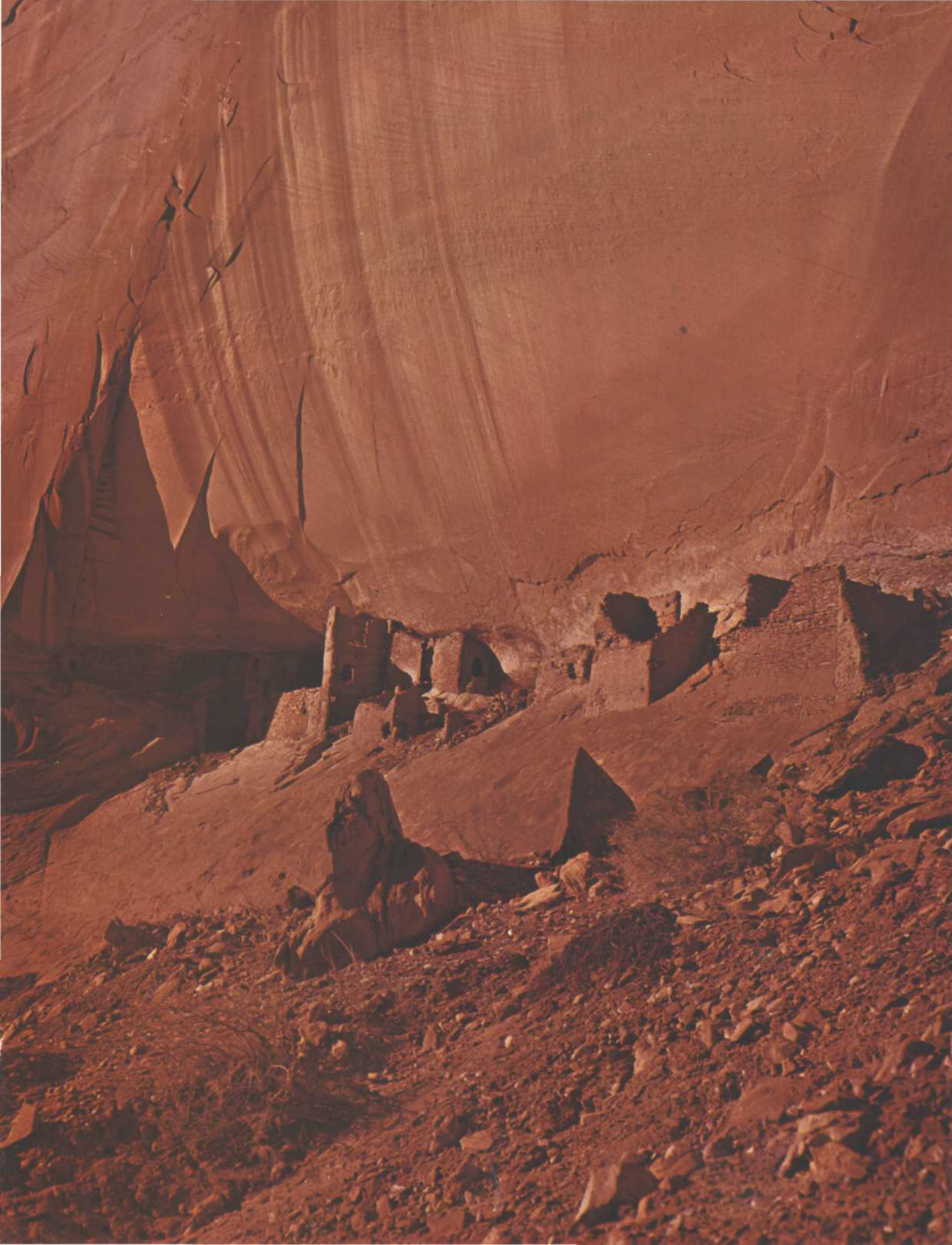
In keeping with the tempo of living in the Navajo Country we continued the rest of the way to Poncho House at a leisurely pace, stopping whenever one of the group wished to examine a plant specimen or a geological feature of the region. The trail passed over sandy terrain crisscrossed with abandoned Indian wagon tracks, both of which emphasized the necessity of a four-wheel-drive vehicle and a competent guide.

Poncho House lies within a huge cave-like recess in the face of a sheer cliff about 25 miles northeast of Monument Valley. Below the ruins, green shrubbery outlines the course of Chinle

continued on page 52



Poncho House builders used much mortar in their construction as shown in this well-preserved, three-story dwelling.



Greasewood...Flower

IT IS KNOWN by many names—greasewood, creosote bush, *Larrea divaricata*. The early Spaniards called the bush with the strong, resinous odor "hediondilla"—"the little bad smeller." But anyone who has ever built a campfire from the dead limbs of the greasewood would heartily disagree with that disparaging appellation. Because, to a desert lover, the flavor of greasewood smoke, the pungent fragrance of its green leaves after a rain, and its spring flower show is the incense and essence of the desert he loves.

Larrea is the most widespread and successful shrub of the southwestern deserts due to the adaptability and stubborn tenacity it shows in dealing with its enemies. When the sharp desert wind cuts the sand away from its roots, *Larrea* simply bends over and plants new ones. When invading seeds from other plants sprout in its territory it sends out a poisoning inhibiting agent through its roots to stop them. It prevents the hot desert sun from sucking it dry of moisture by producing leaves with a waterproof varnish. And in the long desert dry spells it goes into semi-hibernation, sleeping and waiting for the next rain, when it comes to life again in a burst of yellow, wind-milling blossoms. It seems to bloom twice as the flowers are immediately followed by the five-lobed, cottony, white seed balls which are as attractive and showy as the flowers.

Called an xerophyte because of its ability to survive in hot, dry areas, the botanists use *Larrea* as a dependable boundary indication plant of the Lower Sonoran Life Zones—which are the lowest and hottest regions in our country. On the floors of the most arid southern deserts, where it is often almost the only

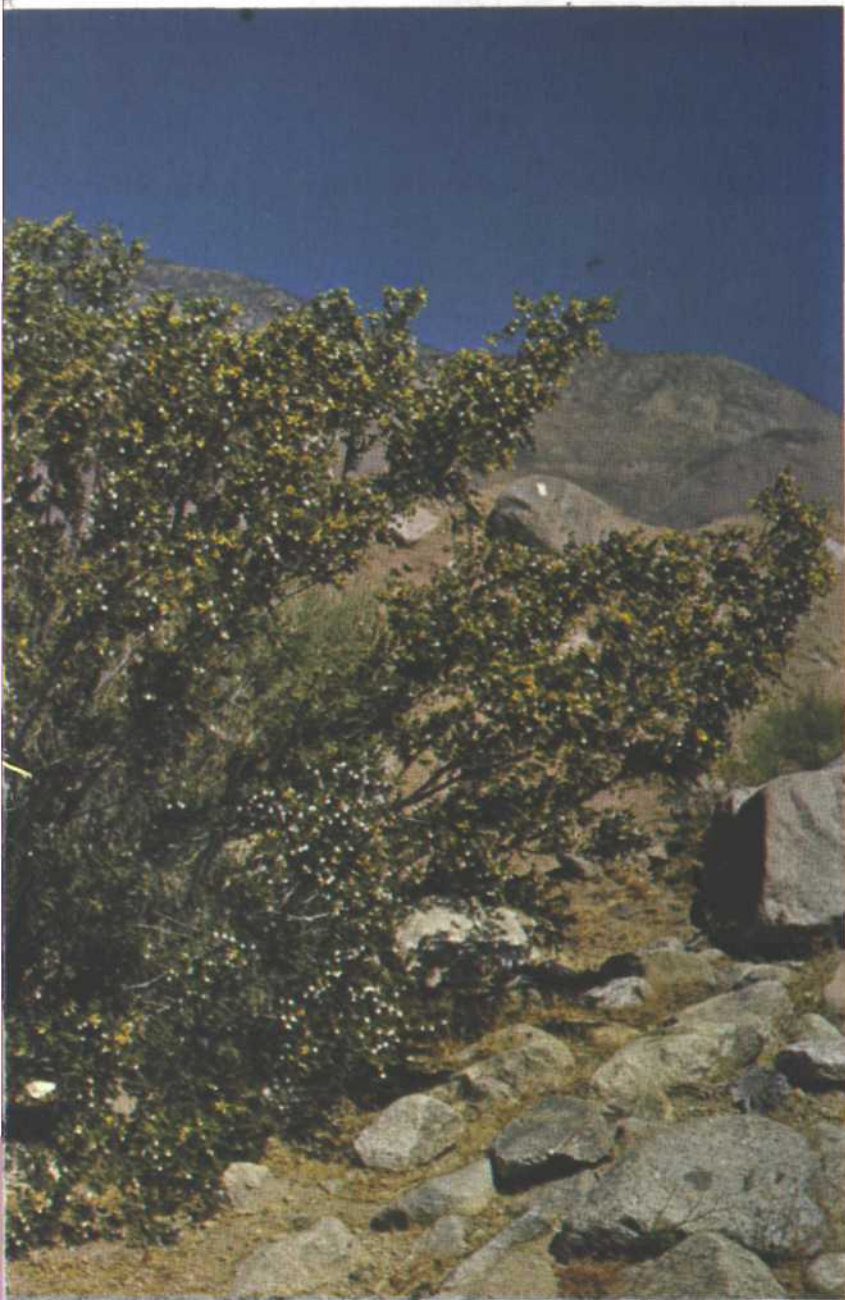
plant life found, it may be stunted to bushes of less than two feet. But at higher elevations, in better soil, it often reaches a height of nine or ten feet and covers the rocky, alluvial valley fans with a healthy gray-green forest.

To the Indians who lived in the desert before the white man came to build and run trading posts the creosote bush was a living store which afforded them an almost endless list of drugs and staples. The dead roots made a smokeless, white-



Power of the Desert

by Julia Crow



hot fuel, easily ignited and burning with a clean, fast flame for broiling lizard and rabbit. The long green limbs, fastened together at the top to form a conical framework and plastered over with mud, made tough, serviceable wickiups.

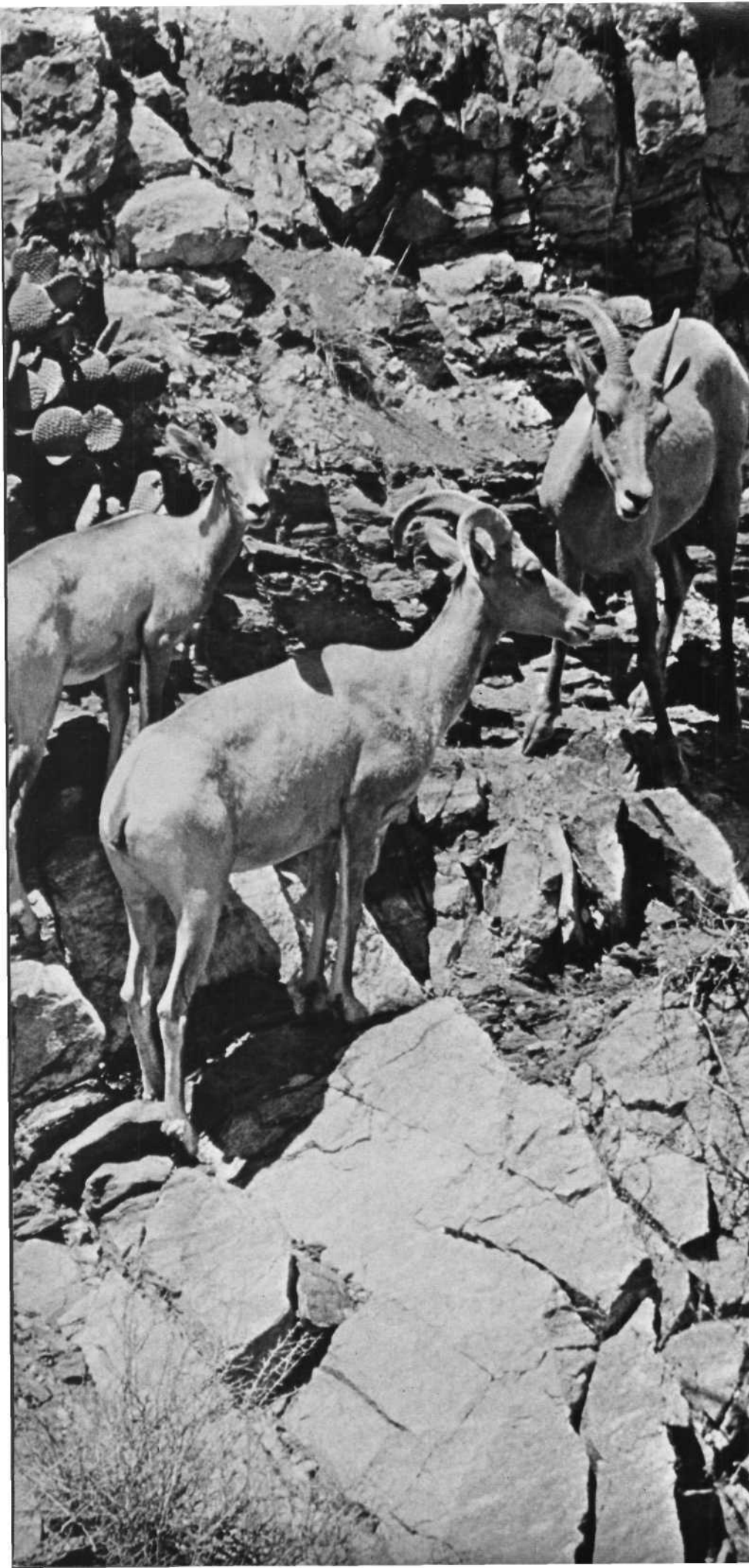
The bark, dampened and twisted, made a strong rope for tying the house poles together, cord to twine into fish and rabbit nets, or, flattened and rubbed soft, a good material to weave into baskets and footwear. On thinner strands of the bark

they strung amulets and beads and clam-shell money to hang about their necks or over their arms. Shredded into soft wadding, it was stuffed into moccasins for warmth and into cradle boards for padding. And, when it was cut into strips and strung on a belt, it became the latest fashion in men's aprons and women's skirts.

A yellow dye was leached from the roots and used to color pottery and baskets. And even the lac scale, *Tachardiella larrae*, which lives on its branches produced a useful commodity-glue. The Indians scraped the brown, resinous gum left by this insect from the branches and used it to mend pots and stick their stone arrowheads to their pointed, fire-hardened, wooden shafts.

But it was as a pharmacy that the creosote bush was most important to the Indians. From the slightly sticky, olive-green leaves they brewed a tea which they believed to be an effective antidote to snakebite and a cure-all for many and assorted ailments. They drank it to settle an upset stomach or to relieve the pain of rheumatism and to cure colds, chicken pox, kidney trouble or tetanus. Stronger tea was mixed with fat and made a salve for burns. And leaves were dried, powdered and used as poultices on sores, boils and saddle galls.

To the Indians, who found in the creosote bush the answer to so many of their daily needs, I imagine it smelled very good. And desert visitors of today, delighting in both the sight and smell of *Larrea divaricata*, would wholeheartedly agree with them. The greasewood, by any other name, is still the flower of the desert. □



Desert Bighorn

by K. L. Boynton

© 1971

THE MAGNIFICENT bighorn of the desert, crowned with his great curving horns, is lord of the sunscorched heights. His kingdom is a wild and mountainous realm of heat-blasted rocks, and cliffs and sheer precipices—a land of waterless vastness where no other big game animal can dwell.

Well adapted to the rigors of desert mountain living, this big American wild sheep can exist on the most meager of diet, going for days in extreme heat without water. A highly self-reliant animal, he is strong of heart, steady of eye and able to take care of himself in some of the hottest and driest of places on earth.

He owes his success to his mother and grandmother. For, in bighorn tribal affairs, the ewes have the entire responsibility of bringing up their youngsters, and it is always a ewe—the old and wise matriarch—who leads the band, knowing from past experience where food and water are to be found in the high desert's desolation, and where the safest places are for daytime siestas and nighttime sleeping.

Color photo by Jack Turner

Junior bighorn makes his debut in February or March. The youngster is already well developed and physiologically mature at birth, and hence maternal care would not seem as important as in mammals born blind and helpless. But recent studies have shown that among sheep, the early mother-young bond is of immediate survival value, and lays the foundation for subsequent flock behavior and clan success.

At parturition, the ewe goes off by herself and, selecting a secluded place, paws out a shallow hollow. There the one offspring is born, a damp, dark grey little bundle that flattens out on the ground, cold and shivery. The next five or ten minutes are critical and the ewe goes right to work. Licking the lamb, she dries him quickly, her warm tongue stimulating his nervous system and helping to raise his temperature which had dropped sharply at birth. Nosing him and grunting encouragement, she helps him up onto his wobbly legs. Turning her body she heads him in the right direction to the milk department. This action, plus the lamb's tendency to move towards a larger object, does the trick. Junior begins to nurse.

Tests have shown newborn lambs groomed by their mothers and headed properly for the milk supply begin to suckle sooner than those whose mothers are prevented from helping them. And they ultimately grow much faster and stronger. In these first few minutes of life, the lamb and mother become very well acquainted, establishing identities by smell, a factor that makes for quick recognition when they later join the rest of the band.

But this is not all that is taking place. Something else is happening, and just how has animal behaviorists stumped: newborn lambs, born at dizzy heights and up walking about so soon after birth, don't fall off cliffs. Crucial for species survival among mountain dwellers with wobbly-legged offspring, this safety factor depends on two things: the lambs being able to perceive depths, and doing the right thing to keep from falling off.

The team of Lemmon and Patterson, with a suspicion that the ewe herself has something to do with this astonishing cliff-avoidance ability of the newborn lamb, tested two groups of youngsters.

One group was left with its mothers, being groomed and oriented to the milk supply normally. The mothers of the other group of lambs were restrained from grooming or orienting them.

All lambs were tested in a closed runway in which there was an apparent "cliff" (a drop of three feet, safely covered with glass). The test consisted of walking along the runway, coming to the "cliff" and keeping from falling off, by slapping on the brakes in time, bracing themselves with front legs rigid and rear limp — which is standard behavior in older lambs when encountering depths. The lambs were tested every hour beginning one hour after birth. The mothered lambs showed a consistently higher score, some avoiding the cliff on the very first trial. The slowest of these were successful in seven trials. But the best of the unmothered lambs took two trials to do it, and the slowest 12. All of which is strong evidence there is something—what nobody knows—in this fresh-out mother-young relationship that helps in the development of the lamb's perceptual skills, and in the establishment of safe cliff behavior.

Very little was actually known of the daily lives of bighorn until the Welles, a husband and wife team, made their long and careful study in Death Valley, California. They found the close mother-young relationship in the very first days is highly important for another major reason: it is then the lamb begins his schooling, learning by imitating his mother. By the end of the first week he puts his nose to the ground beside hers when she is feeding, and works his jaws in chewing motions. When the ewe nips off a bit of forage and raises her head to chew, the lamb looks up and chews too—on nothing. When she puts her head down for another bite, Junior lowers his nose and this time, when he raises his head, he has a bit of forage in his mouth. Now, although he will need milk for four or five months, he's beginning to eat vegetation, and, with the addition of a few more teeth, will be eating everything his mother does.

Watching her, he also learns how to make a bed for himself, pawing out rocks and loosening the surface to make a shallow basin. He knows how to follow well by this time, and now the ewe and lamb



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join the others in the band. From now on, having reached the ripe old age of one week, Junior can get himself out of minor difficulties as far as the ewe is concerned, even if he complains loudly. Being ignored may be tough on a little lamb, but it is all part of the bighorn code that eventually makes a very self sufficient and independent animal.

Not that the ewe doesn't keep an eye out for real trouble. And, equipped with horns and other weapons, she's just the girl who can handle it. Zoologists Woolf and O'Shea, observing a group of two ewes and a lamb feeding, saw one ewe suddenly charge a lurking coyote, striking him with her front hooves and sending him ki-yiing away. Hornocker and Wiles saw a bobcat chasing a lamb turn and flee for his life when three ewes took after him.

Cooperation is the rule in bighorn circles. The ewes have a baby sitting arrangement whereby one plays nursemaid for a dozen or so frolicking youngsters while the other ewes are feeding in thickets or other areas that might be dangerous for lambs. Such time-off ends in a pell-mell reunion with the ewes calling their young and the lambs scrambling to find their mothers. In no time at all everybody is sorted out by smell and the band leisurely moves on.

Junior's grandmother—the wise old ewe—who probably is also the grandmother of most of the sheep in the little band—is the leader. She is the one who makes all the decisions, the others huddling and waiting to see what she does. Up early in the morning, the old ewe heads for the feeding grounds, the others filing along behind. She selects the route, and although bighorn are prodigious leapers and climbers when the occasion demands, the traveling route is the easiest and they stop frequently to rest. Reaching

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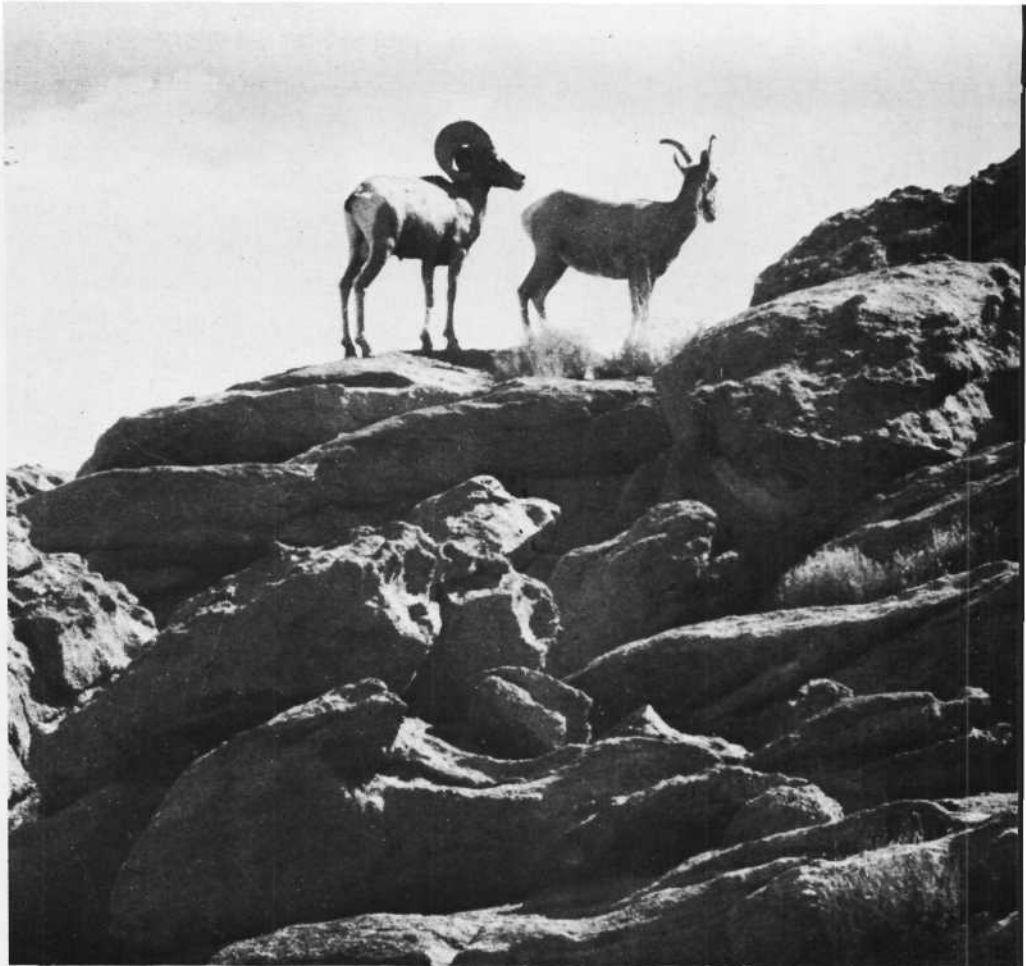
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the feeding grounds, they spread out, taking a bite from a bush or clipping plants, keeping on the move, perhaps traveling three to five miles a day as they eat.

Water is the biggest problem for desert bighorn, and while they need drink only every four or five days, they replenish when they have a chance, a three-gallon swig being just nothing at all for an adult ewe. Capacity helps, but it is not the entire answer, and how these big animals survive under terrific heat conditions on dry plants baffled zoologists until Welles and Welles, again, came up with the answer. Working under heat conditions so bad that cameras were almost too hot to hold, they watched an emaciated ewe and lamb stagger out of the desert inferno to a water hole. So dehydrated were the animals they were hardly able to stand on their spindly legs and their bones stuck out all over. The animals drank for eleven minutes, and the water loaded aboard in distended bellies made them look even worse. The Welles thought they were witnessing the end when the animals sank wearily to the ground. But then, something began to happen.



Although protected by federal and state statutes, desert bighorn sheep are in danger from man's gradual encroachment into their native habitats.

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This picture was taken by a treasure hunter. This past summer he and his family spent a few days of their vacation treasure hunting in a ghost town. With the aid of his Garrett Hunter detector, he found this old and valuable jewelry box. It contained five \$20 gold coins, four other rare coins, several pieces of jewelry and two old tin-type pictures. The value of the gold coins alone more than paid the cost of his entire vacation!

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The resting ewe and her lamb began to fill out, their bony gauntness disappeared, their taut and stringy muscles rounded. In a couple of hours they were on their feet, looking fit and sassy, their smooth hides glistening. From acute dehydration, they literally bounced back to desert living.

Both sexes grow horns. The handsome curled horns of the adult ram and the tall graceful spikes of the adult ewe are composed of a core of bone (part of the forehead) and covered with a sheath of horny material something like that of fingernails. New layers keep forming on the surface of the original core, last season's growth being pushed up and out towards the end of the horn. This horny outside covering is never shed, and no two animals have identical horns, the Welles suggesting that perhaps horns are as individual as fingerprints.

The gorgeous hardware on the male's head is not just there for decoration. They are also arsenals to be used in the wooing season in June-August. Adult rams, who have been living in small groups of their own, free from family raising chores, be-

gin to seek the ewes. They do not collect harems as do elk and other big game.

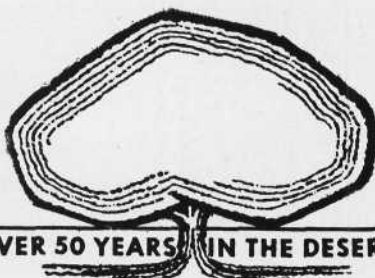
Headwork counts in desert sheep society. The matrimonial season is one big tournament of butting matches, starting with warmup jousts in the gay spirit of the times before things settle down in earnest. Young and lightweight challengers are ignored, the major battles taking place between heavy and evenly matched rams in their prime. They stand some three and one-half feet tall and weigh in about 250 to 300 pounds. The sparring partners back off some 10 to 20 feet, snorting and blowing, then rear and come down stiff legged rushing toward each other. Tearing along at some 30 mph, they meet full force, head on. The clonk and clash of the hollow horns can be heard a mile. Long evolved, these butting matches are more of a ritual, with nobody getting really mad at anybody. Nor are they always for the possession of a female who may not be around at all, or, if she is, may stroll off during the proceedings with another mature ram from among the onlookers.

Jousting may go on for two hours between the same contestants, with some 40 head-on clashes, ending up with the warriors, noses broken and horns battered, lying down side by side to get their breaths before walking away amicably together. Nature, who thinks of everything, kindly put thick pads of rubbery cartilage on the back of the ram head at the base of his horns. Acting as shock absorbers, they keep him from getting addle-pated.

Bighorns have a range of about 20 miles, the water supply being the determining factor, and if all goes well, they remain within this area during their lives. Tribal mortality figures are the highest among lambs, Hanson finding that in Nevada, under severe desert conditions, only 15 out of 100 make it to 18 months. From that age on, their chances are increasingly good, as long as water is adequate, to live to about 15 or 16 years.

The bighorn comes from a long line of mountain sheep whose ancient ancestors first lived in the mountains in Central Asia, and who came to North America millions of years ago via the land bridge across the Bering Straits. Spreading southward, they evolved into the various species found today from Alaska to Mexico. □

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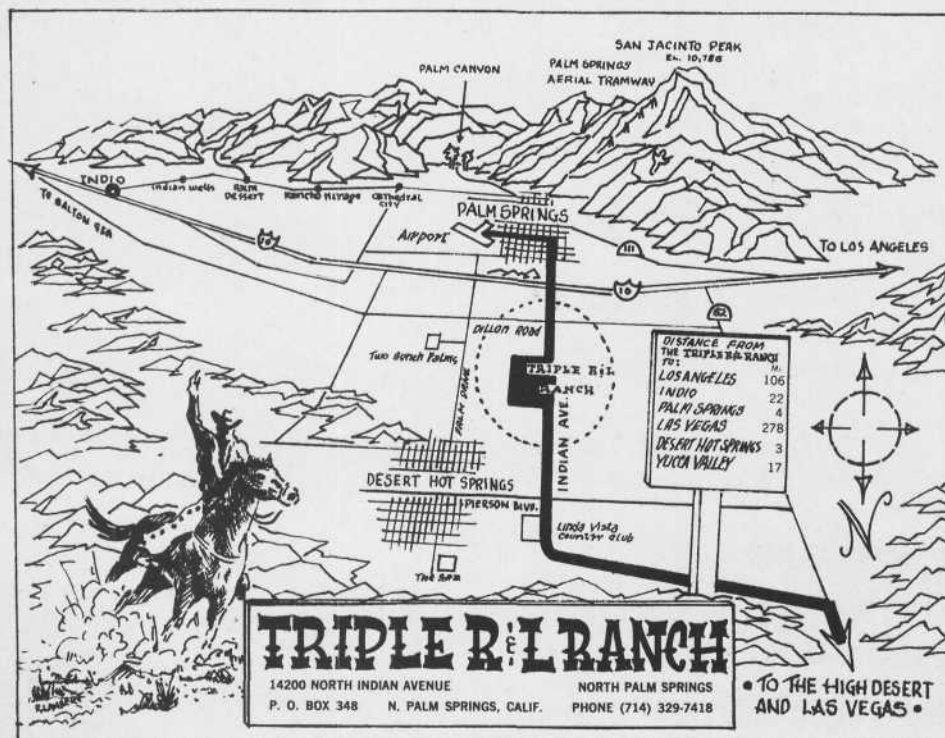
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Within the same period of time you

article) you would be sitting at a typewriter trying to describe in a few pages (it should be a book) the natural, historical and recreational attractions of the four southern counties of California: namely, Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial and San Diego.

As editor of Desert Magazine, I have covered this four-county area—generally called the Southern California deserts—for many years in passenger cars, four-wheel-drive vehicles, dune buggies and on foot. We have published

thousands of miles of back country roads and trails. Also, state and county maps will provide the reader with detailed mileage. The tours were selected to give you an overall view of the areas and a capsule history—which is graphically illustrated in the map by Merle Graffam on Pages

For a back country and rock hounding trip in this area see Mary Frances Strong's article on the Turtle Mountains in this issue.

Contours of Coachella Valley

can take a late afternoon stroll through the scenic canyons, or camp out in uncrowded desert areas where the only disturbances are bright stars and friendly kit foxes stealing your food from around the campfire.

Within a hundred yards of the offices of Desert Magazine in Palm Desert you can feed a curious roadrunner or watch lazy lizards basking on the warm rocks under the noonday sun.

And, within the offices of Desert Magazine (if you were writing this

hundreds of articles on the area. Yet, it is so vast and complex, we have only scratched the surface.

This is not a land of statistics but rather a land of changing weather and colors, a land of impressions and moods—a land of individual imagination and interpretation waiting for you to explore and enjoy.

The tours and points of interest outlined here cover only a fraction of the four counties and are all on paved roads. Space prohibits covering the

PALM SPRINGS—PALM DESERT AREA

State Highway 111 leaves Interstate 10 just north of Palm Springs and connects at Indio after going through the communities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert and Indian Wells. By taking this casual scenic drive (only five miles longer than the freeway route) you will avoid speeding trucks, flat desert and possible windshield damage. Among the many things you will see are:

PALM SPRINGS TRAMWAY. From the Valley Station, 2000 feet above sea level, cable cars carry passengers in 18 minutes to the 8000-foot station in the San Jacinto Mountains where a panoramic view of Coachella Valley is matched only by the sight of the San Bernardino Mountains more than 50 miles away. The Mountain Station has an Alpine Restaurant, cocktail lounge and shops. From the station there are more than 50 miles of hiking trails and 11 campgrounds.

PALM SPRINGS DESERT MUSE-

through Cathedral City, where a new Campgrounds of America with complete facilities for campers and trailers is located on Cathedral Canyon Drive. It continues through Rancho Mirage to Palm Desert, sojourn of presidents of the United States. It is also the home of the Bob Hope Desert Golf Classic.

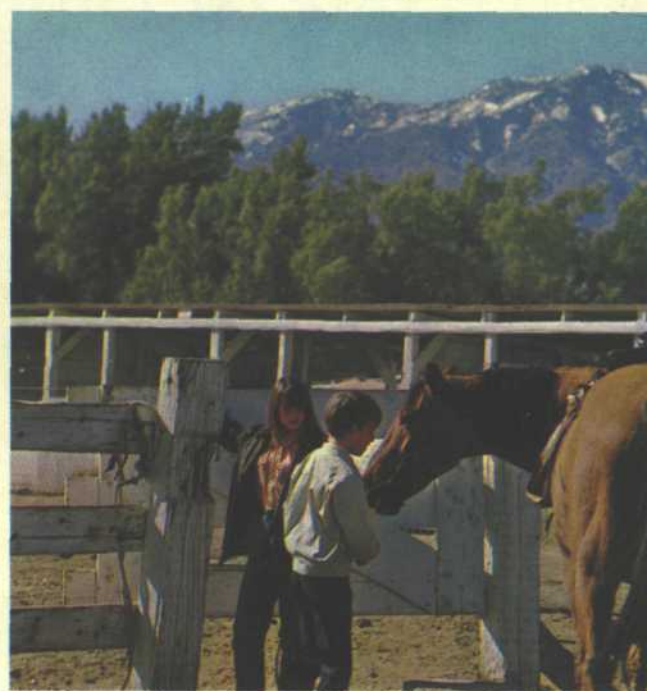
DESERT SOUTHWEST ART GALLERY. On Highway 111, it features paintings, oils and sculpture by the finest artists in the West.

LIVING DESERT RESERVE. One

The Reserve itself encompasses six different desert habitats; the wash bed, sand dunes, rock bajadas, barren hillsides, creosote bush flats and an ephemeral lake.

It is home to over 20 species of mammals from the tiny deer mouse to the coyote. The fan palms, palo verde and mesquite thickets offer nesting sites and refuge to many species of birds including the roadrunner, Gambel quail, gnatcatchers and Cooper's hawks. There are three miles of nature trails complete with

by Jack Pepper



UM. Located in the heart of Palm Springs. See article in this issue.

PALM CANYON. Easily reached by passenger car from Palm Springs (take South Palm Canyon Drive) this is the daddy of all the wild palm oases in Southern California with 3000 native trees along the seven-mile sector. The land is owned by the Cahuilla Indians who charge a nominal fee for entrance. Good hiking trails through the many canyons.

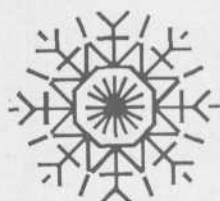
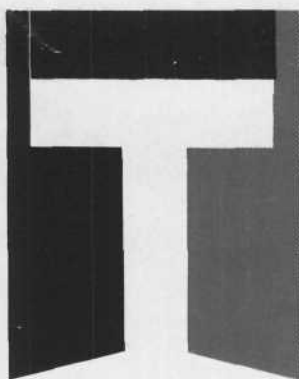
From Palm Springs, Highway 111 goes

and one-half miles south of Highway 111 on Portola Road in Palm Desert. The Living Desert Reserve is under the direction of the Living Desert Association which is a division of the Palm Springs Desert Museum, Inc.

The Reserve covers approximately 400 acres of the alluvial plain of the Deep Canyon drainage. From the Reserve one can see the San Andreas fault system, the often snowy peaks of San Jacinto and San Gorgonio, the Santa Rosa Mountains and the impressive Deep Canyon.

a self-guiding booklet. Open to the public seven days a week from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

LAKE CAHUILLA. A man-made lake and recreational area nestled at the foot of the Santa Rosa Mountains where the shore line of ancient Lake Cahuilla, (which once covered the entire Coachella Valley) can be clearly seen. Take Highway 111 east from Palm Desert to Washington Boulevard. Turn right and go through the community of La Quinta, left on Avenue 52 and then right on Jef-



RIDE THE PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway affords fantastic view of the Coachella Valley from 8,516 foot mountain station.

Dine in the Alpine Room above the valley below.

Fifty-four miles of hiking trails in Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park.

Tramway is an ideal setting for club meetings, conventions and special events.

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Last car down the mountain 7:30 p.m.

Always plenty of free parking.



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PALMS TO PINES A WINTER WONDER LAND



erson Boulevard (watch for ancient shoreline along Jefferson) to Lake Ca-huilla.

INDIO. At the intersection of Highway 111 and Interstate 10, it is the home of the world-famous National Date Festival. See article in this issue. From here main highways continue east and south to Mexico.

DESERT HOT SPRINGS

From Palm Desert take Highway 111 to Rancho Mirage and then north on Bob Hope Drive, past the Eisenhower Medical Center and over the Interstate 10 ramp to Thousand Palms. Turn left on Varner Road and follow the signs to Desert Hot Springs. You can go on Interstate 10, but the back road is more interesting.

The community is famous for its mineral water and healing hot baths. The year-round health resort has 55 hot mineral therapy pools and 76 swimming pools. One of the few locations in the world where a natural underground river of hot mineral water flows near enough to the surface to be tapped.

While in Desert Hot Springs be certain to see Cabot's Old Indian Pueblo Museum, 67-616 East Desert View Drive.



Washingtonia palms beautify the many canyons around Palm Springs and Palm Desert.

Built by the late Cabot Yerxa, it is a four-story rambling structure with 35 rooms. One of the most unique buildings in the West.

From Cabot's Museum so south back to Dillon Road and turn right to Indian Avenue. Turn right on Indian Avenue and a few miles north is the Triple R & L Ranch and Campgrounds with overnight or extended accommodations for campers and trailers. It also features a swimming pool, tennis courts and horseback riding.

Just off of Indian Avenue on Pierson Road is the Western Trails Guest Ranch featuring family ranch-style cottages, large mineral swimming pool, recreational facilities and horseback riding.

For a trip through the High Desert Country continue north on Indian Avenue and connect with State Highway 62 to Morongo Valley.

HIGH DESERT COUNTRY

The High Desert Country extends from Morongo Valley through Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and to Twentynine

Palms, home of many famous artists, including John Hilton. See article in this issue. There is a marked difference between the native desert plants of the sea-level areas and those you will find along this route. Joshua Trees, yuccas and cholla grow among the giant sandstone formations.

Along the way there are many places of interest, including Desert Christ Park, just east of Yucca Valley. Four miles

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1909 A PAIUTE INDIAN CALLED "WILLIE BOY" KILLED OLD MIKE BONIPACE AT BANNING AND KIDNAPPED HIS DAUGHTER, LOLITA, A CHEMEHUEVI. HE FLED FROM THE GILMAN RANCH, DRAGGING HER WITH HIM DOWN THE RAILROAD TRACKS AND OVER TO ONE HORSE POINT IN THE PASS NEAR WHITEWATER. WILLIE BOY (THE INDIAN CALLED HIM "SWIFT FOX") PLANNED TO ESCAPE TO HIS PEOPLE IN 29 PALMS, EVADING A POSSE GATHERED BY THE CONSTABLE OF BANNING. HE FLED NORTH THROUGH MORONGO VALLEY TO THE PIRES. LOLITA HAD STUMBLER AND FALLEN INTO CACTUS AND WAS SLOWING HIM DOWN. A FEW MILES NORTH OF THE PIRES HE SHOT HER AND HEADED ON DETERMINED NOT TO BE TAKEN. OVER DUNCAN FLATS, THEN NORTHEAST TO THE BULLION MOUNTAINS, THEN SOUTH TO MESQUITE SPRINGS AND THROUGH MESQUITE DRY LAKE TO 29 PALMS. WHEN HE ARRIVED THERE HE FOUND THAT FEAR OF WHITE REPRISALS AGAINST THE INDIANS AS A GROUP FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE HAD DRIVEN HIS PEOPLE SOUTH TO THE SAFETY OF THE RESERVATION TO THE SOUTHWEST. WITH THE POSSE HOT ON HIS TRAIL HE FLED NORTH AGAIN TO MESQUITE SPRINGS THEN WEST ACROSS DRY LAKES TO ROCK CORRAL. FOR ONE WHOLE AFTERNOON HE OUTRAN, ON FOOT, A POSSE ON HORSEBACK UNTIL THE HORSES NEARLY EXHAUSTED. FOUR OF A POSSE THAT NUMBERED AS HIGH AS 75 MEN AT ONE POINT, TRAILED WILLIE BOY TO RUBY MOUNTAIN. THERE THE CLEVER PAIUTE AMBUSHED THEM. CHARUE RECHE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED AND THE OTHER THREE HAD THERE HORSES SHOT OUT FROM UNDER THEM. THE POSSE ESCAPED DEATH, FLED CARVEYING RECHE AND RETURNED ONE WEEK LATER TO FIND THAT WILLIE BOY HAD KILLED HIMSELF BY PUTTING THE 20-30 TO HIS CHEST AND PULLING THE TRIGGER WITH HIS BIG-TOE. HE HAD OUTRAN THEM FOR 500 MILES ON FOOT AND THEN TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.



"Willie Boy" 1909

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1862 WARREN HALL AND HENRY WILKERSON DROVE A STAGE ON THE BRADSHAW ROAD FROM LOS ANGELES TO LA PAZ (A COACH AND SIX HORSES) TWELVE DAYS AFTER DEPARTURE THEY ARRIVED AT THE RIVER AND MADE A RETURN TRIP WITH \$5,000 IN GOLD IN ONLY FOUR DAYS. FARE WAS \$40.00 AND ON ONE TRIP 35 PEOPLE, THE DRIVER AND A CHINAMAN MADE THE JOURNEY. A MONTH LATER HALL AND WILKERSON WERE KILLED BY A STATION KEEPER IN SAN GORGONIO PASS. THE KILLER WAS TRIED AND ACQUITTED, CLAIMING SELF-DEFENSE.

PEDRO FAGES WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST WHITE MAN TO MAKE A RECORDED TRIP THROUGH COYOTE CANYON. PURSUING SOME DESERTERS IN 1772 HE WAS FORCED TO TAKE TO THE MOUNTAIN BECAUSE OF LACK OF WATER IN THE DESERT.

KEY TO SOME CAHULLA INDIAN SITES

- 1 BANNING WATER CANYON
- 2 STUBBE CANYON
- 3 WHITEWATER CANYON
- 4 SNOW CREEK
- 5 CHINO CANYON
- 6 BLAISDELL CANYON
- 7 PALM SPRINGS STATION
- 8 TANQUITZ CANYON
- 9 ANDREAS CANYON
- 10 PALM SPRINGS
- 11 DEEP CANYON
- 12 INDIAN WELLS
- 13 PUICHAKIVA
- 14 BLA DULCE
- 15 BIG TREE JOHN SPRINGS
- 16 FISH SPRINGS



Juan Jose Warner

JULY 9, 1847 THE FIRST COACH OF THE SAN ANTONIO-SAN DIEGO MAIL LEFT TEXAS AND ARRIVED IN SAN DIEGO ON AUGUST 30. BEING RUN WITH MULES LED TO ITS BEING CALLED THE "JACKASS MAIL."

TAXATION BY WHITES. DURING THE ATTACK THE INDIANS KILLED ONE OF WARNER'S MEN AND WARNER KILLED FOUR INDIANS WITH HIS LONG RIFLE. THRU HE AND HIS FAMILY FLED TO SAN DIEGO. HE NEVER RETURNED TO LIVE THERE. HE DIED IN LOS ANGELES IN 1875.

JUAN BAPTISTA ANZA MADE AN EXPLORATORY EXPEDITION THROUGH THIS AREA IN 1774. THE NEXT YEAR HE LED THE FIRST SPANISH COLONISTS OVER THE ROUTE TO ALTA, CALIFORNIA FROM SONORA, MEXICO.

JANUARY 20, 1847 THE MORMON BATTALION OBTAINED AT WARNER'S RANCH. THEY BOUGHT SUPPLIES AND RESTED UNTIL JANUARY 23. THEY MARCHED AGAIN AND ARRIVED IN TEMECULA VALLEY ON JANUARY 25. BY JANUARY 27 THEY HAD REACHED SAN DIEGO. THE WAR WAS ENDED AND THE BATTALION DID NO FIGHTING. THEY WERE DISCHARGED ON JULY 16, 1847. MANY OF THE MEN TRAVELED BACK TO UTAH OR NORTH TO FIND WORK. IN OCTOBER OF 1847 MOST OF THE MEN ARRIVED IN SALT LAKE VALLEY AND MET WITH THE "SAINTS" WHO HAD ARRIVED THERE IN JULY OF THAT YEAR. THE MEN THAT REMAINED IN CALIFORNIA FOUND EMPLOYMENT IN SACRAMENTO VALLEY AT SUTTER'S MILL. THE AUTHENTIC DATE OF THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD AT SUTTER'S MILL WAS RECORDED BY ONE OF THE BATTALION MEMBERS WHO WAS PRESENT. HENRY FISLER RECORDED THAT EVENT IN HIS DIARY AS JANUARY 24, 1848. IN THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS \$500,000,000 IN GOLD WAS TAKEN FROM THE CALIFORNIA SOIL.



John Butterfield

SEPTEMBER 16, 1858 THE FIRST BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL LEFT TIPTON, MISSOURI. IT MADE THE 2,912 MILE TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO IN 28 DAYS, 23 HOURS AND 20 MINUTES. JOHN BUTTERFIELD WAS PRESIDENT OF THE OVERLAND MAIL COMPANY AND SIGNED THE MAIL CONTRACT ON SEPT. 16, 1857. IT PROVIDED TO PAY THE COMPANY \$600,000 PER YEAR. THE MAIL WAS DISCONTINUED IN 1861 AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR BECAUSE MANY OF THE STAGE STATIONS FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE SOUTH. MAIL DURING THE CIVIL WAR CAME TO CALIFORNIA VIA PANAMA.

ON JANUARY 18 & 19, 1847 THE MORMON BATTALION CUT A WAGON TRAIL THROUGH BOX CANYON ON THE WAY TO SAN DIEGO TO FIGHT THE MEXICANS. 347 MEN HAD MADE THE MARCH THUS FAR.

CABOT YERXA SINGLE-HANDEDLY BU THIS 35 ROOM, HOPI STYLED DWELING FROM 1913 UNTIL HIS DEATH AT AGE 83 (A TOTAL OF 24 YEARS LABOR). IT IS NOW IN USE AS A MUSEUM AND, SITUATED ON A HILL IN DESERT HOT SPRINGS, AFFORDS A FINE VIEW OF COACHELLA VALLEY.

THE BRADSHAW ROAD WAS FIRST EXPLORED BY WILLIAM BRADSHAW IN 1862 FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS GIVEN HIM BY A MARICOPA INDIAN. BRADSHAW WAS SEEKING ANOTHER DIRECT ROUTE FROM L.A. TO THE GOLD MINES ON THE COLORADO RIVER. STAGES DROVE THIS ROAD FROM 1862 UNTIL 1877, THE STAGE BEING REPLACED IN THAT YEAR BY THE COMPLETION OF THE RAILROAD LINE.

"SAND HOLE" (PALM DESERT)

TORO PA

Vallerito Station

SOUTHERN EMIGRANT TRAIL

Box Canyon

Warner's Ranch

Indian Pictograph Cave

COYOTE CANYON

ANZA'S TRAIL

Palms

San Jacinto Peak 10,831 ft.

San Geronio Peak 11,485 ft.

San Antonio

Palms

Palms

Palms

Palms

Palms

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Historical Map of the Coachella Valley and region

©1971
MERLE H. GRAFFAM
ART AND PRODUCTION
BY ROGER DEAN & ASSOC.
PALM DESERT, CALIF.

THE NAME "COACHELLA" IS OF UNPROVEN ORIGIN. TWO THEORIES ARE GIVEN FOR THIS STRANGE NAME. THE FIRST IS THAT "COACHELLA" IS A CORRUPTION OF THE SPANISH "CONCHILLA" (LITTLE SHELL). THE FLOOR OF MUCH OF THE VALLEY IS COVERED WITH LITTLE SHELLS LEFT BY THE ANCIENT SEA WHICH COVERED MUCH OF THE AREA. THE SECOND THEORY IS THAT "COACHELLA" IS A CORRUPTION OF THE NAME "CAHUILLA" OR "COAHILLA" WHICH IS THE NAME OF THE INDIAN INHABITANTS OF THE VALLEY.

BILL KEYS LIVED IN THE AREA THAT IS NOW JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT FROM 1910 TO HIS DEATH (AGE 97) IN 1967. HE RAN THE OLD DESERT QUEEN MINE. HE WAS ACCUSED, TRIED AND CONVICTED OF KILLING HIS NEIGHBOR WORTH BARRELL IN 1943 AND SERVED 5 YEARS OF A 10 YEAR SENTENCE, THEN WAS PAROLED. EARL STANLEY GARDNER INVESTIGATED KEYS' CASE AND WROTE AN ARTICLE IN ARGOSY MAGAZINE WHICH LED TO A FULL PARDON OF BILL KEYS.

BILL AND JIM MC HANEY SETTLED IN 29 PALMS IN 1879. BILL TURNED TO PROSPECTING AND HIS DISHONEST BROTHER BECAME A CATTLE RUSTLER AND HOMESTEAD. THE SIX IN THE MC HANEY GANG ONCE HAD SPENT 16 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MURDER, TWO HAD ESCAPED THE HANGMAN'S NOOSE AND THE OTHERS WERE EQUALLY MEAN. THEY MADE THE OWNER OF THE DESERT QUEEN MINE SIGN OVER HIS DEED TO JIM MC HANEY AND THEN KILLED HIM. FINALLY JIM WAS IMPRISONED FOR CASTING 240 GOLD PIECES OUT OF LEAD AND GOLD PLATING THEM. HE SERVED 17 YEARS FOR HIS CRIME.



PEGLEG SMITH (FROM A DRAWING MADE WHILE HE WAS LIVING)

THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT IS THE MOST DOMINANT FAULT IN CALIFORNIA. IT IS MADE UP OF A LARGE ZONE OF PARALLEL FAULT LINES EXTENDING OVER 650 MILES. THE FAULT IS THOUGHT TO BE 20 OR 30 MILES DEEP INTO THE EARTH'S CRUST. MOST EARTHQUAKES IN CALIFORNIA HAVE THEIR ORIGINS ABOUT TEN MILES DEEP. THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR CALIFORNIA'S TWO MOST DESTRUCTIVE EARTHQUAKES. THE FIRST WAS IN 1907, THE SECOND WAS THE FAMOUS 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE IN WHICH 700 PEOPLE DIED AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PROPERTY WAS DESTROYED.

THOMAS L. SMITH WAS A CONTEMPORARY OF THE FAMOUS JIM BRIDGER. BORN IN KENTUCKY SMITH LEFT THERE FOR NEW MEXICO AT AGE 22 IN 1823. WHILE TRAPPING ON THE PLATTE RIVER SMITH WAS SHOT IN THE LEG BY INDIANS AND AMPUTATED HIS OWN LEG TO SAVE HIS LIFE. THIS CAME HIS NICKNAME "PEGLEG." AT AGE 29 HE WAS CROSSING THE COLORADO DESERT AND BECAME LOST IN A STORM. HE CLIMBED ONE OF THREE PROMINENT HILLS TO OVERLOOK THE TERRAIN. HE PICKED UP SOME STRANGE, HEAVY PEBBLES WHICH HE LATER FOUND WERE CRACKENED NUGGETS OF PURE GOLD. HE BECAME AN INFAMOUS HORSETHIEF WHEN HE FAILED TO FIND THE PLACE OF HIS DISCOVERY WHEN HE RETURNED. HE DIED IN THE COUNTY HOSPITAL IN 1866, A BROKEN AND UNBELIEVED OLD MAN.



THOUGH WYATT EARP DID NOT BECOME FAMOUS FOR DRIVING STAGES, LOCAL HISTORY WAS MADE MORE INTERESTING BY THE FACT THAT THIS FAMOUS PERSONALITY CRACKED A WHIP OVER THE TEAMS OF HORSES WHICH PULLED LOADS OF GOLD FEVERED PROSPECTORS THROUGH SAN GORGONIO PASS TO THE GOLD STRIKES ON THE COLORADO RIVER IN 1865.

IN 1906 A BAND OF FIVE MEN HELD UP A DETACHMENT OF CAVALRY GUARDING A PAYROLL OF \$9,000 IN GOLD COIN FOR THE MEN AT FORT YUMA. FOUR OF THE FIVE MEN WERE APPREHENDED AND SHOT FOR THEIR PART IN THIS INDIAN WELLS ROBBERY.

THE LAST SPANISH GENERAL IN CALIFORNIA, GEN. JOSE MARIA FLORES, RETREATED THROUGH THE SAN GORGONIO PASS AND THIS VALLEY TO ESCAPE INTO OLD MEXICO IN 1847.

OF ALL OF THE HISTORIC PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE DESERT, PROBABLY THE MOST INTERESTING AND INACCESSIBLE IS THE REGION SURROUNDING AND INCLUDING THE CHOCOLATE MOUNTAINS. THESE INTERESTING MOUNTAINS CONTAIN OLD MINES, INDIAN STORAGE CAVES AND THE BONES OF OLD PROSPECTORS. THIS AREA HAS BEEN A NAVAL AERIAL BOMBING RANGE SINCE WORLD WAR II AND IS STILL A RESTRICTED AREA. IF AND WHEN THIS AREA IS OPENED AGAIN, MUCH IMPORTANT HISTORIC ARTIFACTS AND INFORMATION WILL BE GLEANED FOR OUR LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS... AND POSSIBLY A FEW GOLD MINES WILL ADD TO THE INTEREST OF THE DESERT. CHOCOLATE MTS.

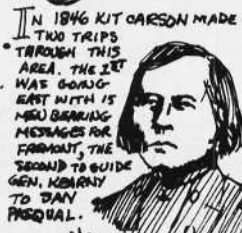
Indian Wells

Indio

"ENDLESS ED" THE FIFTH MAN IN THE CRIME WAS NEVER CAUGHT OR HEARD FROM AGAIN AND THE \$7,000 IN GOLD WAS NOT RECOVERED. ENDLESS ED, WHO WAS A SHARP-SHOOTER AND WORE A MONACLE WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE HEAD OF THE GANG. DID ED GET AWAY WITH THE GOLD OR IS IT HIDDEN NEAR INDIAN WELLS? NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE.

SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS
LA-BORRERO
SEPT

THE MORMON BATTALION ARRIVED AT VALLEJO ON JANUARY 17, 1847. COL. ST. GEORGE COOK, LED THE BATTALION. THEY BLAZED THE FIRST WAGON ROAD INTO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.



IN 1846 KIT CARSON MADE TWO TRIPS THROUGH THIS AREA. THE 2ND WAS GOING EAST WITH 15 MEN BEARING MESSAGES FOR FARMERS, THE SECOND TO GUIDE GEN. KEMERT TO SAN PEDRO.

FIG TREE JOHN WAS ONE OF THOSE MEN WHO ARE THE GRIST OF LEGENDS. A CAHUILLA INDIAN OF THE SWEETWATER CLAN, HE WORE A SILK TOP HAT, AND A LONG BLUE CIVIL WAR COAT WITH SHINY BRASS BUTTONS. HE WAS USUALLY SEEN WITH A CANE IN ONE HAND AND HIS SHOES IN THE OTHER, PREFERING TO GO BAREFOOT. HIS NAME WAS REALLY JUAN RAZON AND HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN BORN IN 1791 AND DIED OF AN ATTACK OF THE FLU APRIL 11, 1927 AT AGE 136 YEARS.



Fig Tree John

THE FAMOUS MORMON BATTALION CROSSED THE COLORADO RIVER ON JANUARY 10, 1847 AFTER FIVE MONTHS OF MARCHING FROM LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS. ARRIVED HERE ON JAN. 16, 1847.



THE SALTON SEA AS IT IS TODAY, OVER 200 FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL, WAS ONCE A DRY LAKE BED OF THE INLAND ARM OF THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA CALLED "ANCIENT LAKE CAHUILLA." SALT WAS MINED IN THIS LAKE BED UNTIL 1905 WHEN THE COLORADO RIVER RAN OUT OF CONTROL AND FILLED THE SALTON BASIN TO ITS PRESENT SIZE. A TOWN AND A TRAIN LIE BENEATH ITS WATERS.

south of Yucca Valley on Joshua Lane is the newly opened Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park and Campgrounds, a complete family outdoor recreation facility. This is also the western entrance to Joshua Tree National Monument. See article in this issue.

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Five miles north of Yucca Valley is Pioneertown. It looks like the real thing (with shoot-outs staged on the week ends), but actually it was built by Hollywood studios and is the site of many western movies. Well worth the short drive. See article in this issue on an excellent hiking trail near Pioneertown.

The eastern entrance to the Joshua Tree National Monument is at Twentynine Palms and east of the community is the Virginia Dale mining district where weekend prospectors still look for values. Whether entering the Monument from Joshua Tree or Twentynine Palms, take the drive to Salton View where you will have a spectacular overlook of the Coachella Valley and Salton Sea. See the Historical Map in this issue for information on Bill Keyes.

To make a loop trip back to Palm Desert take the paved road south through the Monument and continue under the Interstate 10 ramp where the paved road becomes State Highway 195. It winds through picturesque Box Canyon, across the Coachella Canal irrigation system and into Mecca.

From Mecca continue east for three miles on Avenue 66 to Valerie Jean's Date Shop and have one of their famous date milk shakes. Russ Nicoll, owner of Valerie Jean's is one of the pioneer date growers in the area. Ask Russ how to follow the ancient shore line back to La Quinta and Palm Desert.

From Valerie Jean's you can also either go north 16 miles to Indio or south to the Salton Sea and the Anza-Borrego Desert. (See Desert, December '70.)

PALMS TO PINES HIGHWAY

In less than 20 miles the Palms to Pines Highway (State Route 74) rises from the valley floor of Palm Desert into the pine and oak tree forests of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

One of the most scenic highways in Southern California, the first section of the route goes through seven curves 12 miles from Palm Desert with parking areas where you have panoramic views of Coachella Valley below and the Little San Bernardino Mountains in the background. You also look down into Deep Canyon and its tributary dry washes.

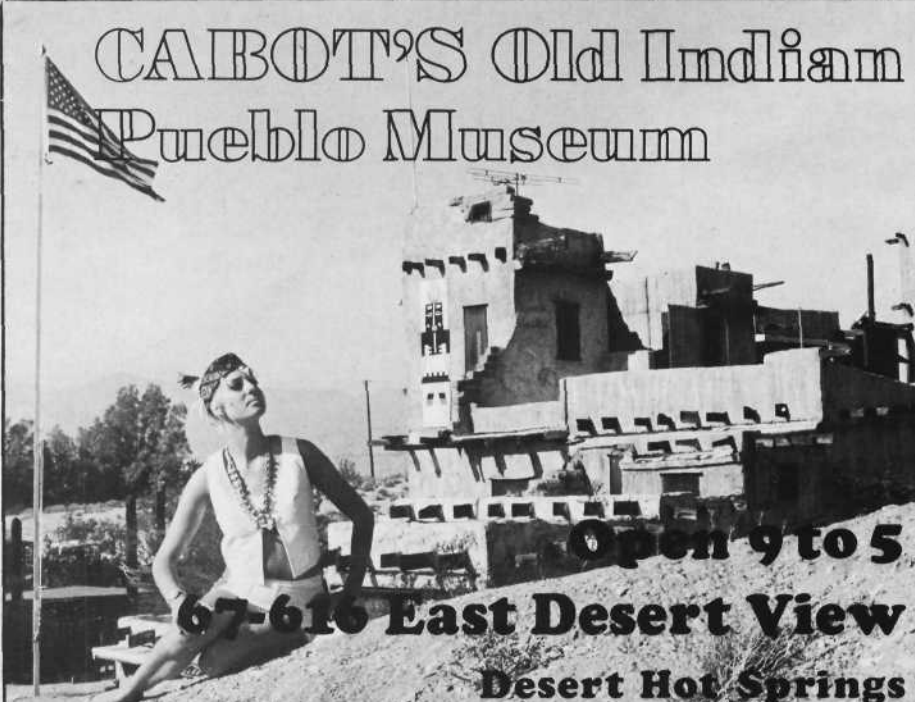
As the highway winds through and up the Santa Rosa Mountains, cacti and sea-level plants are replaced by yucca, agave, mesquite and ocotillo, which, in turn, gradually give way to scrub oak, mountain mahogany and eventually ponderosa pine. During the summer the mountain area is a respite from the desert heat and in the winter it affords family snow activities.

Twenty-four miles from Palm Desert at Paradise Valley (El. 5000 feet), State 74 is intersected by State 71. Continuing on State 74 the road winds through pine trees in Garner Valley, past Lake Hemet and into the winter and summer resort community of Idyllwild.

IDYLLWILD. A summer campus of the University of Southern California with emphasis on music and the arts is located here as are summer camps for the Boy Scouts of America, YMCA, YWCA and church groups. There are all types of facilities, including stores, restaurants, motels, trailer parks and public overnight camping grounds. Hiking through the Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park is a favorite pastime. Horses can be rented for rides up the mountain to Round Valley and the mountain station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway.

From Idyllwild the highway winds back down the mountain past Lake Fulmor to Banning and Interstate 10. Return to Palm Desert by taking Interstate 10 to Highway 111 (through Palm Springs) or to the Thousand Palms turnoff, 30 miles from Banning.

CABOT'S Old Indian Pueblo Museum



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MALKI MUSEUM. Enroute back to Palm Desert be certain to stop by the Malki Museum. Take the Fields Road turnoff from Interstate 10 between Banning and Cabazon. Proud of their culture, the Cahuilla Indians established the museum in 1964 to preserve their arts and history. The Cahuillas lived in Riverside County long before the Spanish came in the 1770s. There are more than 3000 artifacts, including one of the finest Indian basket collections in the West. Indian dances and other events are held throughout the year.

SALTON SEA

Fed by the affluent waters of the canals and ranches of Imperial Valley and the runoff from the Chocolate and Santa Rosa Mountains, Salton Sea is more than 30 miles long and about 15 miles wide. A year-round camping, recreation and fishing area, Salton Sea was formed in 1905 when the Colorado River broke its banks and flooded much of the Imperial Valley. Through the efforts of the Southern California Pacific Railroad, the Colorado was again diverted to its main stream.

The California State Recreation Area, with free public overnight campgrounds, is located on the northeast side of the lake along State Route 111. There are commercial fishing and camping facilities on both sides of the lake. The game fish, corvina, ranging from two pounds to 20 pounds, is caught the year-round, making the Sea one of Southern California's favorite fishing spots. And, unlike other California fishing waters, it is not crowded since it has 340 square miles of water. Other smaller fish are also caught, especially from the banks.

Returning to Indio and Palm Desert on State Route 86 you will pass Traverline Rock (see article in this issue) and on the left are the watermarks of ancient Lake Cahuilla, once a fresh water lake 100 miles long and 60 miles wide which disappeared from desiccation long before the white man arrived.

And millions of years before ancient Lake Cahuilla, the entire area was under the ocean until the land erupted and the mountains and deserts were formed. These are the mountains and deserts of California's four southern counties which today form a vast recreation area and a land of adventure. □

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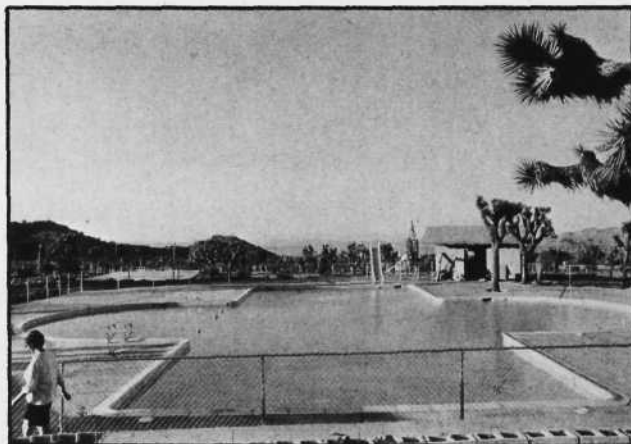


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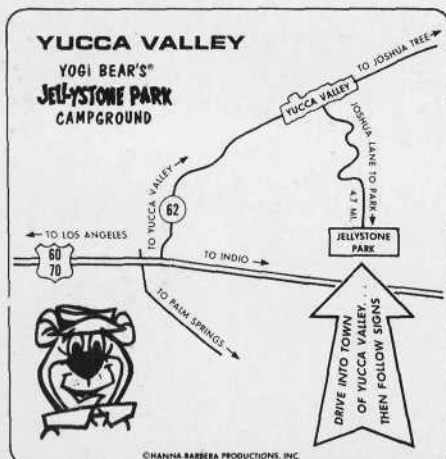
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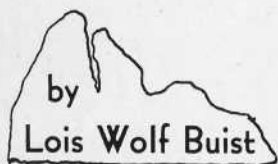
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Rock Art in Joshua Tree



HAVE YOU ever gazed at an ageless work of nature and thought of all the fascinating events it has witnessed during the existence of time? And also wondered about the stories it could tell?

It's an intriguing way to make a nature trip, and no other place has more tales to tell than the rocks of Joshua Tree National Monument. The beginnings of earth, its violent upheavals, the rudiments of civilization, man's individual glories and defeats—all of these have probably been seen by the rocks of

Joshua. And they were silent witnesses to such varied and catastrophic events that time has molded some of them to be living reminders of their participation in the building of the ages.

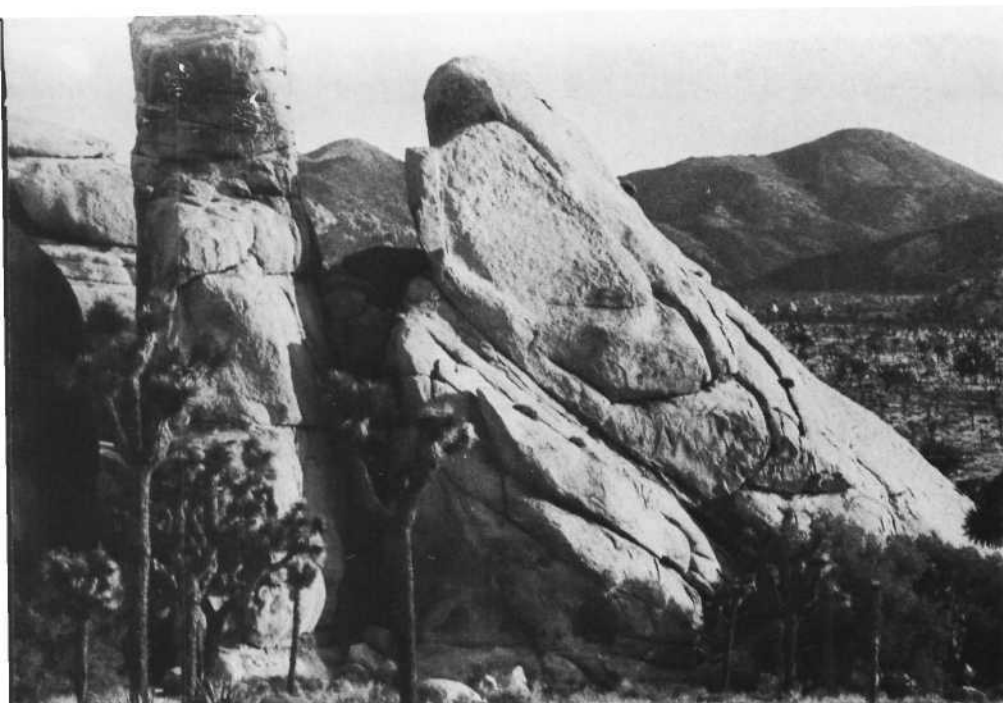
In Indian Cove, the northern section of Joshua Tree Monument, there is a monstrous crab-like creature with squinty eyes and thick legs. It's unearthly, yet you can't help but think that at some time it breathed and crawled. According to the general geological scheme, the first forms of life appeared on earth five

hundred million years ago, and when I saw this creature in Indian Cove I couldn't help wonder if it was part of life in that ethereal beginning. And, if so, was it an eyewitness that could now testify in the great trial of Darwin's Theory of Evolution versus the Book of Genesis?

And directly across from Hidden Valley on the road that enters the Monument from the city of Joshua Tree is a tremendous fish rising out of the ground as if desperately trying to find the sea in

A giant "tortoise" crawls across the field as you pass Cap Rock toward Sheep Pass in Joshua Tree National Monument.





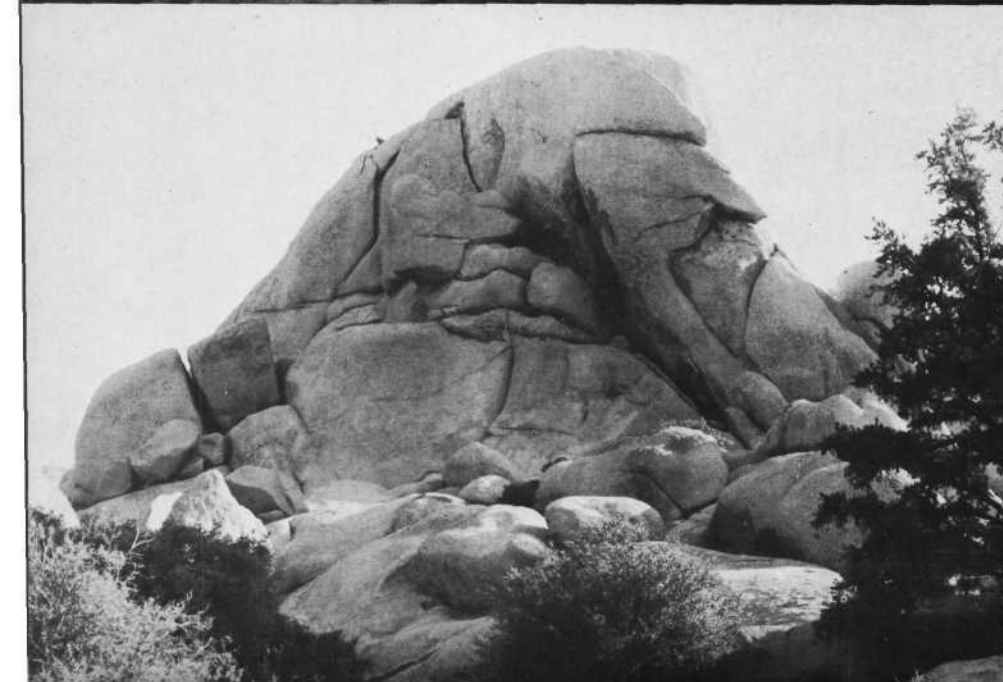
which it once lived. Geologists disagree on the causes of the vast catastrophe that is supposed to have happened to make the sea and land change places. But perhaps this giant fish, who may have been present, could tell us what happened when the earth is supposed to have shuddered, making mountains spring up from the plains, seas turn into deserts, and great forests became huge piles of kindling wood. And if tides and hurricanes rushed from pole to pole, carrying reindeer and seals to the tropics and desert lions into the Arctic—does this fish, perpetuated in the Monument, know if such an upheaval was caused by an outside force, a reversal of the magnetic poles, the Great Deluge?

But of legend rather than conjecture is "The Old Man of the Mountains" who can be found in the northwest corner of the Hidden Valley Campground. To me, he epitomizes the mixture of age and perpetual virility that seems to be the sum and substance of the Monument.

I think, perhaps, he may even be the hero of the Cahuilla legend about "The Man Who Walked to His Death." In the Indian story that is supposed to have happened in the Monument area, an old man whom time had caught up with and taken the speed of lightning from his feet and the vision of the hawk from his eyes, prayed to Mukat, the Chief God of the Cahuillas, to make him young and strong again before he died.

And when the old man's final time had come, he asked his family to leave him alone in his hut. It was then that Mukat appeared to him, eight feet of towering brawn, with a breath as hot as the rays of the sun and a hand strong enough to crush a tremendous boulder. He said to the old man, "Unhappy old man, you are going to die. But before you die, you will be young and strong once more." Then he disappeared.

The author used her imagination to photograph rock animals in Hidden Valley. From top to bottom, a tremendous fish rises out of ground, a huge bull stands astride a sandstone summit, and the face of the "Old Man of Mountain" rests against a rock formation. Readers should send in their imaginative photographic creations to Desert Magazine.



The old man's family who kept vigil outside the hut suddenly saw a figure appear at the door. They stared and the old man, now tall and powerful, standing erect as a pine and with his eyes toward the rising sun, marched straight ahead toward a canyon's ledge. He raised his arms in salute to the rising sun and leaped into space.

Now, to this day, the "Old Man of the Mountains," shriveled and gaunt, squints from the side of his rock top—a reminder of age, but a constant participant in the aliveness that always surrounds him in the Hidden Valley Campground.

Then, there's the tortoise that can be seen ambling across the field as you leave Hidden Valley Campground and follow the main road past Cap Rock towards Sheep Pass and Jumbo Rocks. The tortoise, noted for its longevity and slow amble, may have traversed this area from prehistoric times to the present. Perhaps he crawled through the Ice Age and the Stone Age, lived here 25,000 years ago when man first came to the area, and later had young Cahuilla children climb on his back.

Certainly he was a silent witness when mountain man Jedediah Smith came through in 1826 charting the first overland passage to California. And still in the 1800s he may have watched the prospectors come and heard the wild revelry when gold was discovered at mines such as the Hornet, the Poor Man, the Frying Pan and Lost Horse.

And what about the giant bat that can be seen hovering on the hillside behind the tortoise? Perhaps like the vulture that led Henry Wickenburg to one of the greatest gold mines ever developed, this monstrous bat may be hovering over hidden riches.

Perhaps he's guarding the mine that Johnny Lang was seeking in the year 1926. And, if so, how ironical it is that Johnny Lang's grave lies on the Salton View-Cap Rock Road in the Monument. And the bat, high up on its hilltop, can overlook the grave as a forever reminder to Johnny of the treasure that was almost within his grasp.

But, by far, the most dramatic reminder of the past is the huge bull that stands astride the mountain ridge over Hidden

Valley. In silhouette glory against the desert sky, he guards a natural amphitheater where rustlers once hid their cattle. And to see him, you must walk the nature trail through the amphitheater. You will find yourself surrounded by cliff-high jagged rocks and you'll hear the bellowing of the rustled cattle, the hoof beats, cracking whips.

You'll shy from the greed of man who used this remarkably beautiful spot for thievery and rustling. Then, at the far end of the trail, when you look up at the stalwart bull, you can't help but think how men were not immortalized here in stone—but cattle were!

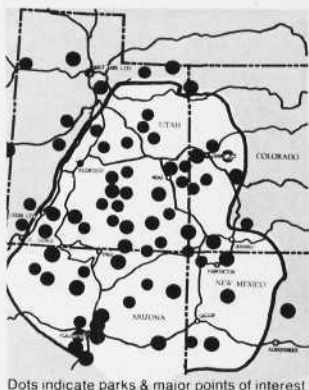
All through Joshua Tree National Monument there are numberless replicas carved in stone. Each one awakens your imagination, whets your appetite for knowledge of its historic aspects, and urges you to seek further. But, always, as I wander through the different sections of the Monument and let my imagination run rampant on the exciting events that the rocks have seen in the past, the thought always uppermost in my mind is—what will these same rocks see in the future? □

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The Date Festival

by Jack Sheppard

Everything's up to date in Indio.

And the Riverside County community hasn't gone as far as it can go for each year its National Date Festival continues to grow to where today it ranks among the top six fairs in California.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary,



the internationally attended exposition will be held this year from February 12 through 21. Since its opening in 1947 with 45,000 people visiting a 40-acre site, it has reached the quarter-million attendance mark with exhibit buildings, date gardens and other permanent facilities sprawled over 120 acres.

The Festival celebrates the annual harvest of dates in Coachella Valley where 90 percent of the dates grown in the United States are produced. More than 40 million pounds of the nutritional fruit are shipped out each year. The first cultivated dates were brought to the valley from the Near East in 1912.

Most spectacular entertainment feature of the exposition and fair is the Arabian Nights Pageant which is

DATES

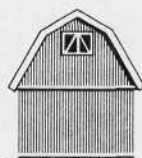
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Rockhounds return each year to see the elaborate gem and mineral exhibits and lapidary equipment. Other attractions include a flower show, photographic salon, exhibitions of fine arts, domestic arts, arts and crafts and the Junior Fair with its blue ribbon livestock auction on February 20.

The regular county fair midway with carnivals, rides and games is open daily. The traditional Arabian Street Parade will be held at 10:30 a.m., February 15.

The National Date Festival grounds are on Highway 111 in Indio, about 125 miles south of Los Angeles and can be reached on Interstate 10. Daytime temperatures are in the high 70s, but evenings are cool so warm clothing should be worn for viewing the outdoor Arabian Nights Pageant.

Accommodations are at a premium during the festival although there are ample camping facilities on public grounds along the shores of Salton Sea, south of Indio. For information about motels, trailer parks and other facilities, write to the Indio Chamber of Commerce, Arabia Street and Highway 111, Indio, California 92201. □

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presented free each evening from a mammoth stage fashioned after an ancient Arabian Village. Some 150 singers and dancers take part in the musical extravaganza with Queen Scheherazade, a living counterpart to the legendary beauty and wit of old Bagdad, reigning over the festivities.

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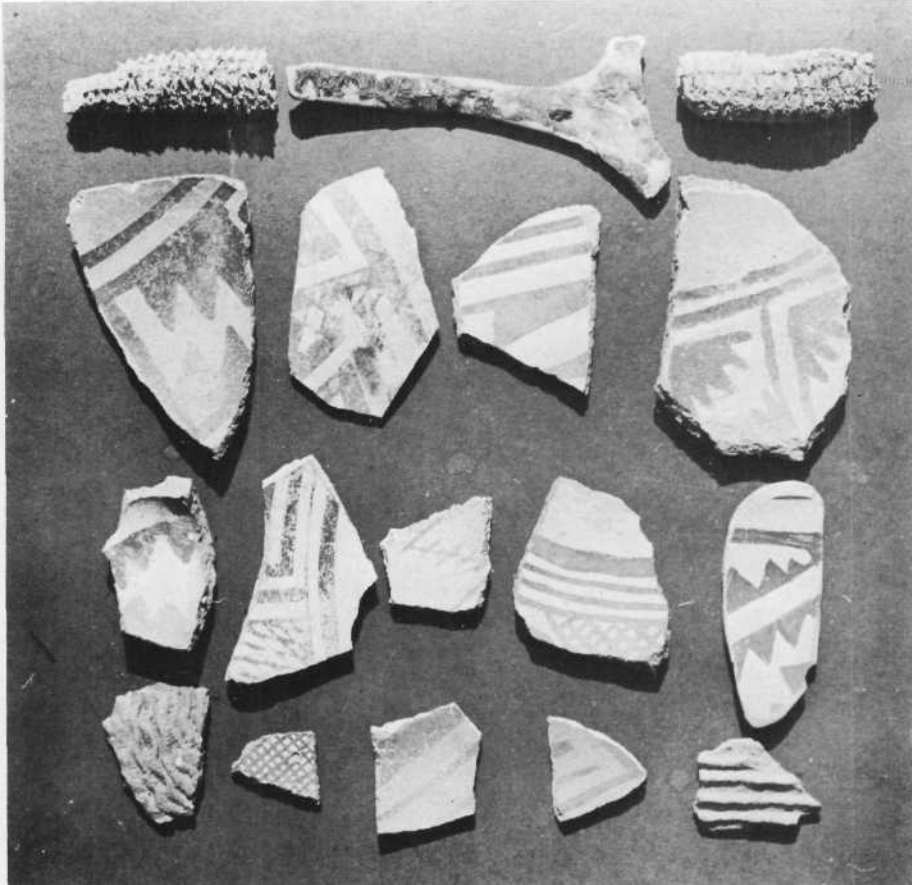
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A page from Poncho House's past reveals (top) corn cobs and bone with pieces of dried flesh and (below) pottery shards whose designs indicate an extensive trading range with other Indians.

PONCHO HOUSE

continued from page 28

Wash as it winds through the area. It has been estimated that Poncho House once contained over 300 rooms, but weathering and vandalism have taken their toll and few complete structures remain today. In debris near the ruins we found evidence of Basketmaker Culture lying directly under that of the Pueblo people, which might indicate that at this particular site the change from one culture to the other was a gradual transition. From studies at other ruins some archeologists have suggested definite lapses of time, perhaps centuries, between the two eras.

An examination of some of the numerous pieces of pottery scattered around Poncho House ruins provided a fascinating insight to the activities of its people ten or more centuries back in time. One crudely molded piece of sun-dried mud was perhaps a Basketmaker's first attempt to create pottery. Another section from a far later era was implanted with a delicate design that seemed to reveal a striving for beauty by its long dead creator.

The decorated sections of pottery found in ruins such as Poncho House are

considered to be parts of small utensils known as "trade pieces," which their owners frequently exchanged with members of other communities. Studies have shown that each group had its own decorative designs. That knowledge, together with the fact that the clay they used was characteristic of a particular location, enables archeologists to determine with reasonable accuracy the area from which the original utensil came.

Some of the pottery shards found at Poncho House suggest sources of the trade pieces as distant as 150 miles, but in areas too far away for foot travel, the objects could have been relayed through groups along the way, rather than by direct exchange.

Although the Poncho House trip requires a guide and a four-wheel-drive vehicle, there are other prominent scenic spots which may be reached from Bluff over graded roads or paved highways. These include Recapture Pocket, Valley of the Gods, Goosenecks of the San Juan, Muley Point and Bridges National Monument. All are within a few hour's drive from Bluff. □

Woman's Viewpoint



HERE COMES a time with home-making and writing a column when you must clean up. In the home it means organizing drawers, mailing refund coupons and rearranging closets. When writing a column it means sorting through reader correspondence that has not been used and preparing it for publication. Such a backlog has piled up, so this month's column will be a hodge-podge of reader comments and recipes.

Mrs. Ione Wood of San Diego, California is a seed mosaic fan and she has several hints to pass along. She suggests making a mosaic from the sage grouse pictured with the K. L. Boynton article in the October issue. By using one-inch graph paper any picture can be enlarged. The birds' soft browns and grays are perfect for seed work.

Mrs. Wood also has an excellent method of coloring rice that saves time and mess. She glues the white rice in place and then colors it with a magic marker. Before using any seed on a mosaic, Mrs. Wood heats the seeds in an oven at 200° for 30 minutes to kill eggs and insects.

Mrs. Wood writes: "If any of your readers would care to share information or materials with me on these hobbies I would be happy to hear from them." How about it readers? Drop me a line and I will forward the address.

Ages ago a reader requested ways to use broken glass. Mrs. L. F. Sowers of Gold Hill, Oregon, submitted a great idea. This 79-year-old lady puts broken

glass in her rock tumbler with grit. In a couple of days the glass is satiny smooth. The glass can be arranged to resemble the petals of a daisy for a wall plaque. Fabric, cork or finely crushed glass provides a suitable background.

If you are too lazy to design a plaque you might follow the suggestion of Joyce Schmidt of Bakersfield, California. She filled an old fashioned fruit jar with tumbled glass and placed it in the kitchen window. She says, "It looks especially attractive with the sun shining through."

Mrs. Szykowski of Beaumont, California, wrote to say she and I have the same rather odd first name—Joleen.

Mrs. Ann Lincoln of Santa Paula, California, reminds readers early spring is the time to watch for miner's lettuce, dandelion and watercress to enhance tossed salads.

Now for some recipes:

CAMP-CAKE

- 1 lb. seeded raisins
- 2½ cups water
- 1 lb. raw or brown sugar
- 4 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2/3 cups shortening or oil
- 1 lb. whole wheat flour
- 2 teaspoons soda dissolved in
- 4 teaspoons hot water
- 1 teaspoon each cloves and nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons each baking powder & salt

Cook raisins, water, shortening, sugar and spices together for three minutes, cool slightly. Add dry ingredients, and soda dissolved in water. Pour into well greased and floured 9x12x2 inch baking pan and bake 50 to 60 minutes at 325° to 350°, or drop from spoon for cookies and bake 15 minutes. *Beata Jencks—Murray, Utah.*

Mrs. Jencks says the cake will keep for several weeks if aired once a day. Beata has become a friend even though we've never met. I've learned she is an avid outdoorswoman and loves cats.

DOUBLE PUPS

- ¾ cups corn meal
 - 1/3 cup flour
 - 1½ teaspoon baking powder
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - ½ tablespoon minced onion
 - 1 egg
 - 8 ounces cream style corn
- Approximately 1 inch fat for frying in skillet

Mix together the first four ingredients.

In separate bowl combine beaten egg, corn and the minced onion. Add dry ingredients to the mixture, stirring well. Drop by spoonfuls into the hot cooking fat. Turn once to brown on both sides. Drain on paper towel. Serve with fish, beans, chile or other foods as you would regular hush puppies. This recipe will yield approximately 15 pups. *E. M. Palmer—Corpus Christi, Texas.*

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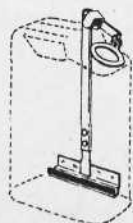
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Rambling on Rocks

by Glenn and Martha Vargas

MANY PEOPLE have heard of mineral crystal twins, but most have a mistaken idea of what a twin is like. The common thought is that two crystals attached side by side are always twins. In most cases, this is simply random parallel growth.

A true twin is two (or more) crystals that have grown together along a certain plane; and always, one of the crystals is rotated 180° away from the other. The rotation is always there, but not always easily discernible. The law of rotation in twinning will separate a twin from a random parallel growth. Twinning is not confined to only two crystals. There may be three involved, called a trilling; four, a fourling; five, a fiveling; even sixes, sevens, eights and sometimes even greater numbers combined.

There are a number of basic types of twinning. Two individuals side by side are known as a contact twin. One growing through another is known as a penetration twin. A third type, not easily recognizable, is known as polysynthetic twinning. It is in reality a stack of crystals. It can be illustrated by taking a stack of sheets of paper which are all marked on the upper side. Then restack them by laying down the first piece marked side up; the second marked side

down (the 180° reversal). The third sheet is the same as the first, the fourth the same as the second, etc. This type of twinning is characterized by having a series of fine parallel lines. Each line represents the junction between two reversed crystals.

Contact and penetration twins are the most common, and many interesting forms are produced. A contact twin may simply be two individuals, perfectly parallel; or the two may be joined at an angle, producing a V shape. The notch of the V is known as the re-entrant angle. Quartz forms a number of kinds of twins; the most interesting is known as a Japanese twin, and was first found in Japan. The two crystals are usually quite flat, and joined along one of the narrow edges making a flat v-shaped form as illustrated. Spinel and diamond show an interesting twin of the octahedron (a double pyramid). These are joined along one of the triangular faces, making a complex fourteen-sided figure.

Penetration twins are sometimes very startling. To see one crystal apparently



grown through another (as illustrated) is hard to believe. Actually, the crystals started as an intergrowing pair; one did not grow through the other. The finest example of this type is the mineral staurolite. It seldom grows as a single untwinned crystal. Staurolite twins are found in many parts of the world, and have attracted attention because many times they are a perfect cross. Legend has it that these are the tears of angels shed on the day Christ was crucified. The tears dropped to earth and petrified into the stone crosses. Because of this belief, they became popular as good luck charms and were sold at their point of origin. When the supply of suitably crossed stones became short in some areas, enterprising individuals carved twin likenesses out of soft rock.

Another phenomenon that is akin to

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twinning is the growth of two different minerals in twinning position. The mineralogical basis for this is very difficult to explain, but two different minerals may grow side by side, or even interpenetrate. The most unique one of these that we know of is a union of two copper minerals found only at Santa Rosalia, Baja California, Mexico. The two minerals are boleite and cummengite. Boleo is the French word for copper, and a Frenchman named Cummenge was involved in mining copper at the location. The nucleus of this growth is a cube of



ther trouble and the cutter can settle for two smaller gems if he so desires.

The cutting of transparent twinned crystals in faceted gems can be a problem. Sometimes this twinning plane tends to scatter light when it passes through. A faceted gem must allow light to move through in predetermined directions without any interruption and change of direction. If a twinning plane is set at an improper angle, the gem may appear fuzzy, milky or dull, because some light has been diverted in the wrong direction.

In most cases, twinned minerals are objects for collectors, and gem cutters usually shun them. Usually a twin is a symmetrically beautiful thing, and cutting it into gem will usually ruin rather than enhance it. □



boleite which itself is a trilling. Attached to each of the six faces of the cube is a small pyramid of cummengite, giving the group the look of a six-pointed star, much like a Christmas tree ornament.

The junction along which all twins meet is known as a twinning plane. This is nearly always a joint where the growth of the two crystals interfered with each other. As a result, in many cases this plane is an area with poor adhesion. This sometimes is very disconcerting for the gem cutter. Many times he does not realize he is working with a twin, and his first inkling is when the piece splits in two along the weak twinning plane. After splitting, the two pieces will give no fur-

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FREE 128 page catalog on detectors, books and maps. General Electronic Detection Co., 16238 Lakewood Blvd., Bellflower, Calif. 90706.

TREASURE-METAL and mineral locators. Free 24 page booklet. GeoFinder Co., Box 37, Lakewood, Calif. 90714.

• MISCELLANEOUS

AZTEC CALENDAR—Beautiful 8 1/2 x 11 black and gold lithographed reproductions of the famous Aztec Calendar with comprehensive explanations of its symbols. An educational and interesting conversation piece. For framing. A great gift! Send \$1.25 to R. Dean, 74401 Hwy 111, Palm Desert, California 92260.

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• MISCELLANEOUS

STOCK CERTIFICATES. Cancelled with IRS stamps attached, \$2.50 each or 5 all different, \$10.00 postpaid—while they last. 22494 Domingo Road, Woodland Hills, Calif. 91364.

"PIRATES' BREAD" RECIPE! Rare! The Captain's Choice! A meal in itself! Delicious! Different! Easy recipe! \$1.00. (Friends: Amazing Response! Thanks! Good Eating!) Rolfe (DM), 324 Rose Street, Freeport, New York 11520.

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Desert

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(Or Three One Years)

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☐ BILL ME LATER

☐ ALSO SEND DESERT'S 12-ISSUE HANDSOME BROWN VINYL BINDER FOR \$3.50

(includes tax and postage)

Date Binder(s) with Year(s) _____ ☐ Undated

Letters to the Editor

Letters requesting answers must include stamped self-addressed envelope.



Informative . . .

Within the last week I returned from a vacation in the Mid-West after having mentioned your publication to some friends and decided it would be a far better way of showing some of the colorful areas of the desert than I could ever explain. Therefore please enter a three-year subscription in their name.

I have personally enjoyed your magazine for many years.

JAMES I. MENZIES,
San Jose, California.

Something to Chew On . . .

I was born on a small ranch in the mountains between Temecula and Hemet in 1902. My mother made chewing gum from the white gluey juice of a thistle by putting the juice on the back of the kitchen stove and after a bit it got chewy. I liked it even though the taste was like the stem of lettuce.

Then there was what my older sister called Indian tea, a very fragrant bush that gave off a beautiful aroma. These are a few of the reasons I like the articles in your very fine magazine.

R. J. AUGUSTINE,
Aztec, New Mexico.

Fond Memories . . .

In our room at the Sleeping Rainbow Guest Ranch in Utah's Capitol Reef National Monument I found a copy of the May, 1970 issue of *Desert* which was extremely interesting, especially the article *Spanish Gold in the Henrys* where Alice Knee (of the Sleeping Rainbow Guest Ranch) took us last year. I also enjoyed the article on the Goudings and Monument Valley by Bill Knyvett.

Then other tours with Lin Ottinger in Moab, Utah and with Kent Frost of Monticello into "The Land of the Standing Rocks" made it very difficult to return to the noise and tension of city life. Perhaps receiving *Desert* each month will help heal the nostalgic attachment I have for that part of the country. Enclosed is a check for a subscription.

MRS. CARL G. FRANCIS,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Nay and Yea . . .

I have been a subscriber to your magazine for a number of years. Your magazine has changed over the last two years and I am very dissatisfied. First, Bill Bryan's 4WD column disappeared and then the back cover was changed from a beautiful picture to a lot of money for you and also the larger ads. We have a 4X4 rig and a camp trailer. I like to go on many of the trips and places I find in your magazine but not trips like *It's Playtime in Borrego* or passenger car trips.

KENYON KUSCH,
Oak View, California.

It's Playtime in Borrego in the December, 1970 issue was a very interesting article as most of the articles in *Desert* are. The bizarre and grotesque appearance of the areas and the wonders of nature which are so vividly and graphically presented in *Desert* makes it a great magazine. So keep up the good work.

ELMO MENETRA,
Hot Springs, New Mexico.

Let's Face It . . .

I just received my copy of the December '70 issue and have read it from cover to cover. Also, if you will take a reading glass and look down in the lower left hand corner of the front cover about $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch from the edge and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the bottom you will find a face looking at you. What is it? I have read *Desert Magazine* ever since it was first published and have enjoyed every issue.

WELLS ERTHAL,
Fullerton, California.

Editor's Note: The face is there, but I don't know how he (or she) got into the picture. Maybe photographer David Muench can cast some light on the subject.

Go West . . .

After many such good stories in such a noteworthy magazine, you should spend more time in proof reading. The article on the Butterfield Trail in the Oct. '70 issue is very good but your readers may get turned around. You state "after leaving Carrizo Springs, the old stage road followed the Carrizo Wash east until it reached the junction of the Vallecito Wash". It should have read *west* instead of *east*. It's still a top-notch magazine.

TED HANEY,
Chula Vista, California.

Desert Safaris . . .

In regards to the new format with the "Desert Safari" you have adopted for *Desert* as in the August '70 issue, we would like to state our approval. We find it not a real departure from the past issues, and welcome the personal attention given to a specific area which will motivate us to plan to visit that particular area. Best wishes for continued success.

MRS. C. L. COGSWELL,
Twentynine Palms, California.

Calendar of Western Events

This column is a public service and there is no charge for listing your event or meeting—so take advantage of the space by send-in your announcement. However, we must receive the information at least three months prior to the event. Be certain to furnish complete details.

JANUARY 29 & 30, PALM SPRINGS ANTIQUE SHOW & SALE, Features representative booths of more than 75 antique shops from throughout the United States. Riviera Hotel Convention Center, Palm Springs, Calif.

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 8, FESTIVAL OF ARTS, Tubac, Arizona. Sponsored by the Santa Cruz Valley Art Association. Paintings, crafts and other exhibits. Admission free.

FEBRUARY 12-21, NATIONAL DATE FESTIVAL of Riverside County, Indio, California. This is the 25th year of the world-famous event with industrial, recreational, agricultural exhibits plus spectacular displays and pageants. See article in this issue.

FEBRUARY 20 & 21, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF 4WD CLUBS 12th annual convention, Elks Lodge, Santa Maria, Calif. Convention headquarters, Holiday Inn, 1405 East Main Street, Santa Maria, Calif. Trailer and camper space at Santa Maria Fairgrounds. For information write Peter K. Weber, P.O. Box 99, Santa Maria, Calif. 93454.

FEBRUARY 20 & 21, ANTIQUE BOTTLE SHOW AND SALE sponsored by the Peninsula Bottle Collectors of San Mateo County. Fairgrounds, San Mateo, California. Free parking and admission. For information write Jess Jones, P.O. Box 886, Belmont, Calif. 94002.

FEBRUARY 21 & 22, THIRD ANNUAL GEM FAIR, sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Gem Fair Association, 1970 Devonshire Downs, Northridge, California. Write Franz Nawrocki, P.O. Box 2478, North Hollywood, California 91602.

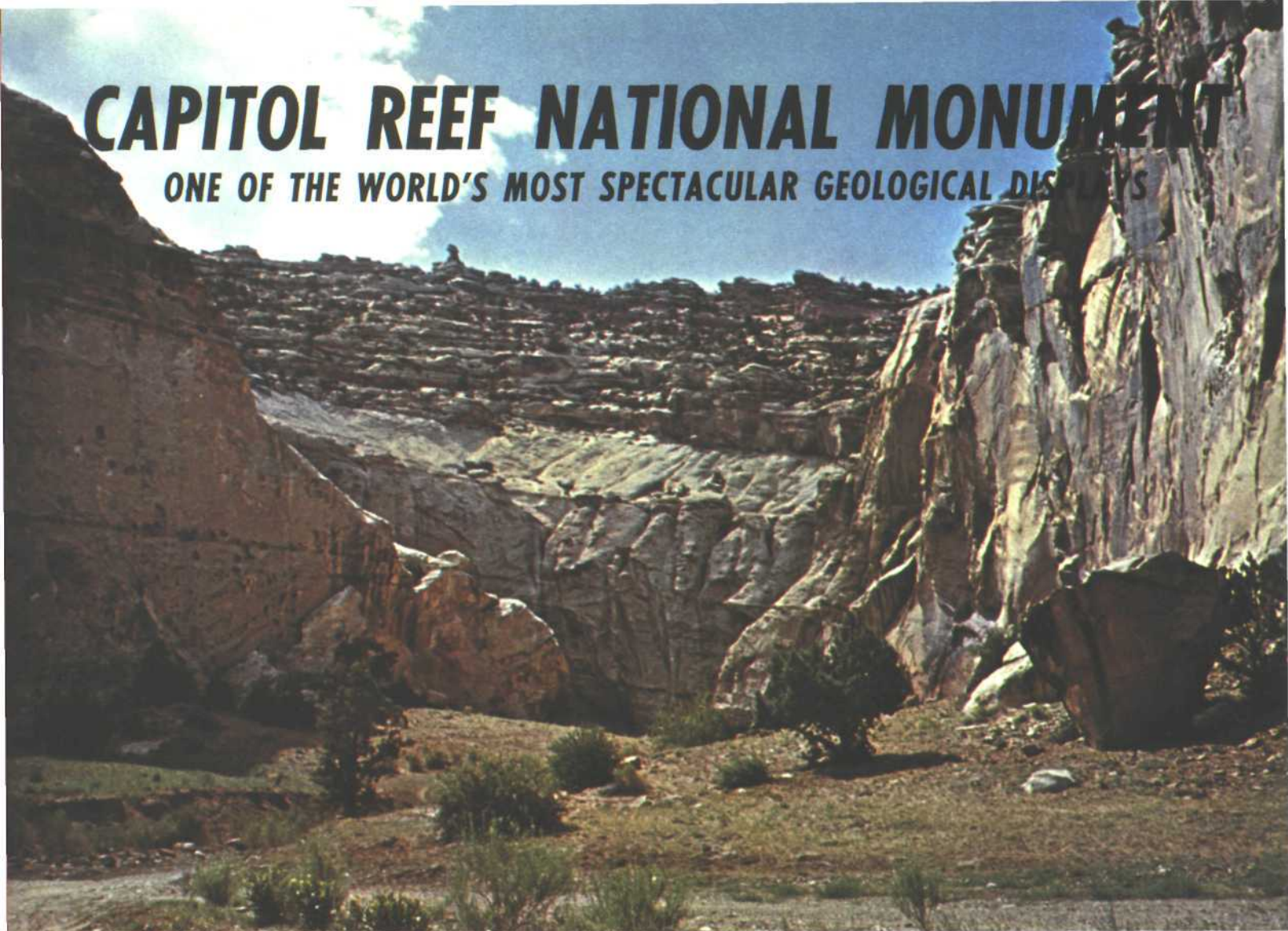
FEBRUARY 27 & 28, BOTTLE SHOW AND SALE sponsored by the Antique Bottle Club of Orange County. Retail Clerk's Union Hall, 8530 Stanton, Buena Park, Calif.

MARCH 5-7, A PAGEANT OF JEWELRY, sponsored by the Maricopa Lapidary Society, Arizona State Fairgrounds, Phoenix, Arizona. 22nd annual event. Write James Cronin, 10637 Crosby Drive, Sun City, Ariz., 85351.

MARCH 6 & 7, 11th ANNUAL GOLD PANNING CONTEST, Tropico Gold Camp, Rosamond, California. All types of gold panning for adults, ladies and children. Other events include burro races, barbecue, and tour of area. For information write Tropico Gold Camp, Rosamond, California.

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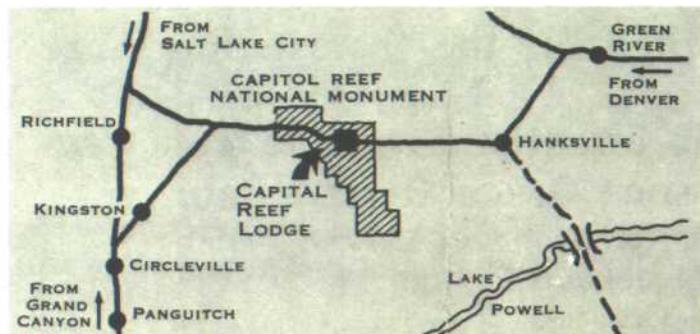
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VALERIE JEAN'S HISTORICAL NOTES & ITEMS OF INTEREST

If you are here at our Shop when you read this, or happen to visit someday, the sturdy structure of the wood framework will intrigue you. Here is its history:

The redwood rafters are old Western Union telegraph poles. They carried the wires paralleling the Southern Pacific rails through the Coachella Valley Desert to Yuma, Arizona, when it was first constructed in 1877. The shop pillars and beams were bridge timbers supporting the railroad over the Desert washes two generations ago. For nearly 30 years they served that purpose.

In 1905, the overflowing Colorado River, through an irrigation break below Yuma, began filling the Salton Sea. The rising waters covered the tracks and telegraph line. These same poles, bridge timbers and railroad ties, removed at that time, lay on the desert for another 30 years, until they finally contributed their age-weathered beauty in the building of this—now world famous—VALERIE JEAN DATE SHOP—still operating since 1928, under its original founder and owner, RUSS NICOLL.

Write for our special DESERT SUNSET box with the colorful Valerie Jean painting on the cover. Contains 1½ lbs. of luscious Medjhoor dates. Delivers for \$3.85. Will be very happy to send you our brochure which lists various packs of dates and date confections.

WE SHIP THE YEAR ROUND

If you are coming from Palm Springs, Palm Desert or in the La Quinta area, turn right from Highway 111 on to Washington and then left onto Avenue 50. At Jackson turn right and continue to VALERIE JEAN. This also leads to both sides of the Salton Sea.

MEDJHOOL—

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The Medjhoor palms were imported from Morocco where this variety is the favorite of the Royal Family because of its size and natural goodness. It has all INVERT sugar which makes it a quick energy food.

VALERIE JEAN Medjhools are even more unusual because our long years of date experience enable us to select the best, also, how to care for this delicate fruit in our plant.

A new customer said recently, "we have had Medjhools before but have never seen any the equal of yours" and many tell us that they have traveled miles out of their way to get those large Valerie Jean dates so many people are talking about.

The fact is, it takes a certain type of soil and grower to produce the Medjhoor dates we require. They must be severely thinned, covered with waterproof bags and properly picked, one by one as they ripen. Careful field handling, curing and grading for size, has much to do with the final results.

Valerie Jean Date Shop

RUSS
NICOLL,
Owner

Box 786-D , THERMAL, CALIFORNIA 92274

Telephone (714) 397-4159